

July 10, 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  
(MP - IDSA)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



Prepared By: Diya Deep Singh

## **Chinese military training in South China Sea for capability elevation and regional stability protection**

China Military Online, July 10, 2020

China is firmly opposed to United States' groundless accusation about China's military training in South China Sea, Senior Colonel Ren Guoqiang, spokesperson of China's Ministry of National Defense said on Thursday. Ren made the remarks when asked by reporters for comments on U.S. Defense Department's news release on July 2 which alleged that China's actions will destabilize the situation in the South China Sea. Recently, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted military training in waters off China's Xisha Islands, and the Chinese side released news about the training on June 27, Ren said, adding that the training is a routine arrangement within the PLA's annual training plan for the purpose of effectively enhancing the Chinese military's maritime defense capability so as to safeguard national sovereignty and security and protect regional peace and stability.

The training was not targeting any specific country and object, said Ren. By ignoring the facts and calling white black, the U.S. Defense Department is sowing discord among countries in the region and attempts to make benefits from it, we are strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to the behavior of the U.S. side, Ren said. Thanks to joint efforts of China and ASEAN countries, the current situation in South China Sea is generally stable, Ren said. However the U.S. has been flexing its muscles and making provocations by dispatching its advanced military planes and vessels to the South China Sea, where the U.S. military conducted 'navigation hegemony' operations for many times, which threatens regional security and stability, Ren said. He pointed out that the U.S. is the biggest pushing hands of militarization of the South China Sea and running counter to the peace-loving efforts and wishes of countries in this region. Ren stated that China is committed to building an Asian community with a shared future and developing a friendly and cooperative relationship based on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit with countries in the region. We hope the U.S. side will make self-reflection, stop its provocative military actions in the South China Sea and its groundless accusation against China and stop sowing discord among countries in the region and creating tensions, Ren stressed.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/10/content\\_9850666.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/10/content_9850666.htm)

## **Department of Arms Control and Disarmament Holds Briefing for International Arms Control and Disarmament Issues**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, July 9, 2020

On June 8th, 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a press briefing for Chinese and international media outlets. Mr. FU Cong, Director General of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament, elaborated China's position on current international arms control and disarmament issues, including China's accession to the Arms Trade Treaty, the so-called China-US-Russia trilateral arms control negotiation, and the Compliance Report on arms control agreements issued by the US State Department.

On China's accession to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Mr. FU said, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress adopted a decision to ratify the treaty on June 20. On the same day, Foreign Minister Wang Yi signed the instrument of accession, thus completing the internal legislative procedure for China's accession to the Treaty. On July 6, the instrument of accession was deposited with the UN Secretary General by the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations. China's accession to this important arms control treaty is another testimony to China's determination to combat illicit arms trafficking and its commitment to multilateralism and

the international arms control regime, and also constitutes another concrete step to implement the grand vision of President Xi to build a community of shared future for all mankind.

On the so-called trilateral arms control negotiation among US, Russia and China. Mr. FU said, US officials have recently been making a lot of noises about China joining the US-Russia negotiation on nuclear arms reduction. They even went so far as to tweeting a staged photo. China has made its position known on numerous occasions. Mr. FU reiterated that China has no interest in joining Russia and the US in their bilateral negotiations. Given the huge gap between the nuclear arsenal of China and those of the US and Russia, it is unrealistic to expect China to join the two countries in a negotiation aimed at nuclear arms reduction. China urge the US to respond positively to the call of the Russian Federation to extend the New START Treaty, and on that basis further reduce its huge nuclear arsenal, so as to create conditions for other Nuclear-Weapon States to participate in the nuclear disarmament negotiation. According to the statistics from renowned international think tanks such as the Federation of American Scientists and SIPRI, the US nuclear arsenal stands at about 5800 nuclear warheads, which is almost 20 times that of China's number of nuclear warheads.

On the US Compliance Report on arms control agreements, Mr. FU said, the report paints the US in a perfect light, while making a lot of unsubstantiated allegations about other countries compliance with international arms control agreements and commitments, using very ambiguous language. Mr. FU highlighted the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the US conduct in relation to that treaty. In 2001, the US was the only country that stood out in opposition to the conclusion of a verification protocol to BWC. Mr FU also answered questions from journalists on issues including the development of China's national defense, nuclear disarmament, intermediate-range missiles, and China's arms trade policy.

[http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-07/09/content\\_4867803.htm](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-07/09/content_4867803.htm)

### **China reiterates it will not join so-called China-U.S.-Russia arms control negotiations**

China Military Online, July 9, 2020

China on Wednesday stressed that it has no plans to join the U.S. and Russia in their talks to renew a nuclear arms control treaty. Recently, U.S. officials have been making a lot of noises about China joining the U.S.-Russia negotiation on nuclear arms. They even went so far as to tweet a staged photo. Washington and Moscow began talks last month to try to extend the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty), which they signed in 2010. It will expire next year.

Given the huge gap between the nuclear arsenal of China and those of U.S. and Russia, it is unrealistic to expect China to join the two countries in a negotiation aimed at nuclear arms reduction, Fu said. "We urge the US to respond positively to the call of the Russian Federation to extend the New START Treaty, and on that basis further reduce its huge nuclear arsenal, which stands at about 5800 nuclear warheads, and which is almost 20 times that of China's number of nuclear warheads, according to the figures given by the renowned international think tanks, such as the Federation of American Scientists and SIPRI," he added.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/09/content\\_9849731.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/09/content_9849731.htm)

### **China's military is using spider excavators to build roads near Indian border**

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, July 9, 2020

PLA has brought in the all-terrain machines to speed up construction work in the rugged Himalayan region. They are seen in the background of a video showing soldiers on the Tibetan plateau released last week Chinese troops are using all-terrain walking excavators to speed up road-building and other construction work in the rugged Himalayas near the country's disputed border with India, where tensions have been rising. The heavy machines, also known as spider excavators for the way they move, can be seen in the background of a video showing People's Liberation Army soldiers on the Tibetan plateau by the Yarlung Tsangpo River, or Brahmaputra as it is known in India. The footage was released last week by the PLA's Tibet Military District, which looks after the frontier with India.

With four hydraulic legs on tyres and two sawtooth extensions, the excavators can stand and step over obstacles, walk across ditches and streams, and climb and work on near-vertical terrain. The PLA uses two models made by state-owned firm XCMG Construction Machinery in Jiangsu province – one that weighs 11 tonnes and can walk at 10km/h (6.2mph), and another that can be operated remotely without a driver. They are also used for emergency rescue operations by China's paramilitary People's Armed Police. Both China and India have in recent years been upgrading infrastructure along their Line of Actual Control – a 3,488km (2,167-mile) unmarked boundary that has seen decades of claims and counterclaims. These construction projects have led to increased skirmishes between border troops, including a long stand-off at the Doklam plateau in 2017, and a brawl on June 15 in the Galwan Valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region in Kashmir, which left at least 20 Indian soldiers dead, with an undisclosed number of Chinese casualties.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3092369/chinas-military-using-spider-excavators-build-roads-near-indian>

### **PLA holds mock air defense battles amid frequent US aerial reconnaissance**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 9, 2020

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is holding mock air defense battles in the coastal region of South China's Guangdong Province, a location that has seen frequent aerial close-in reconnaissance operations by US military aircraft in the past few days. An air defense brigade under the PLA 74th Group Army is conducting this confrontational drill along the coastline of western Guangdong set in a real-combat scenario, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Wednesday evening. Anti-aircraft guns, road-mobile anti-aircraft missiles and radar installations were deployed in the drills, according to the report. The report did not disclose when the exercises started and when they are scheduled to conclude.

During a mock battle, four high-speed target drones were released and launched an attack on a battle position with the support of simulated jamming aircraft. Anti-aircraft artillery units immediately formed a network with their fire-control radars, narrowed down the scope of early warning and identified hostile targets, before unleashing a barrage of bullets on them. The drills took place at a time when the US continuously sent reconnaissance aircraft to this area for close-in reconnaissance operations from Monday to Wednesday, which military experts said could be US attempts to gain knowledge of technical parameters, locations and movements of the Chinese military's weapons and equipment over the South China Sea and Taiwan Island.

PLA's drills are routinely scheduled and not targeted at any specific country, but US' aerial close-in reconnaissance operations pose threats to China's national security, so the drills also show that the PLA is always prepared to defend against any hostile aggression, a Chinese military expert told the

Global Times on Thursday under condition of anonymity. The air defense drills can be seen as a reminder to the US that their provocative actions should not go any farther, the expert said, noting that the PLA can send warplanes to disrupt US aircraft and temporarily suspend the military activities they are conducting reconnaissance on as they approach.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1194062.shtml>

### **China sends a new commercial communication satellite into space**

Global Times, July 9, 2020

China sent a new commercial communication satellite code-named Apstar-6D into planned orbit via a Long March-3B carrier rocket on July 9, 2020.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1194079.shtml>

### **US upgrades defensive ‘buffer’ in Pacific as China’s military capabilities increase**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, July 9, 2020

Satellite images show work on the remote base on Wake Island, which could play a key defensive role in event of conflict in the western Pacific. China now has missiles capable of targeting the defences on Guam and striking the continental United States. The United States is planning to upgrade its facilities on a remote outpost in the western Pacific as a military fallback, satellite images suggest. The images taken by US-based Planet Labs show how existing infrastructure on Wake Island – an incorporated territory between Guam and Hawaii that is run by the US Air Force – is being improved and new facilities are being built.

The island could also host vital anti-missile defences in the event of conflict with China or North Korea, which now have missiles capable of striking the continental United States. The American website The Drive, which published the photos on its War Zone blog, reported that the Pentagon has been pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into the stronghold in recent years, with the near 3km (1.9 mile)-long runway and other airfield infrastructure being upgraded, and a large solar plant and other facilities being built. The website said the base can be used as a “fallback” for the US military if bases further west are attacked.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3092555/us-upgrades-defensive-buffer-pacific-chinas-military>

### **EU commends China for its ratification of Arms Trade Treaty**

China Military online, July 9, 2020

The European Union (EU) commended China on Tuesday for its ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), encouraging other countries, especially major arms exporters, to join it. Last year, U.S. President Donald Trump pulled his country -- the world's largest arms exporter -- out of the treaty, revoking former President Barack Obama's signature in 2013. A statement by a spokesperson of the European External Action Service, the EU's diplomatic service, said that by acceding to the ATT, China contributes to the advancement of the ATT's objectives to regulate the international trade in conventional arms, to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional

arms and ammunition, and to prevent their diversion. Increased transparency in the international arms trade is another important objective of the ATT.

The statement added that this is an important development as a more responsible global arms trade would contribute to peace, security and stability, reduce human suffering, and promote cooperation, transparency and increased confidence. It would also create better conditions for sustainable development. The EU supports the universalization and implementation of the ATT, it noted.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/09/content\\_9849854.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/09/content_9849854.htm)

### **Huge gap between Chinese and US nuclear arsenals causes concerns**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 8, 2020

US officials have been making a lot of noises about China joining the US-Russia negotiation on nuclear arms reduction, but China has no interest in joining, given the huge gap between the nuclear arsenal of China and those of the US and Russia, and China has the need to improve its military capabilities, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Wednesday. People have reason to be concerned about the gap when the US is not only expanding, improving and upgrading its nuclear arsenal, but at the same time also building all the missile defense systems and deploying them in China's neighborhood, Fu Cong, head of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, told a press briefing in Beijing in which the Global Times participated.

The US is developing weapons in space, has withdrawn from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, and has made it explicitly clear that it is planning to deploy land-based intermediate-range missiles in China's neighborhood and on its doorstep, Fu pointed out, noting that all these pose strategic threats to China's security, and people should not be surprised that China sees the need to improve its military capabilities. At the same time, the Chinese policy of maintaining the minimum deterrent capability and no-first-use policy will not change, but that does not mean China should not modernize its nuclear weapons to defend its national security, Fu said. The US has a huge nuclear arsenal, with about 5,800 warheads, about 20 times that of China's number, according to international think tanks such as the Federation of American Scientists and SIPRI.

It is also planning on increasing this huge gap by investing about \$494 billion in the next 10 years and \$1.2 trillion in the next 30 years to upgrade its nuclear arsenal, both the warheads and their delivery systems. The US is fully aware of the huge gap between the Chinese and US nuclear arsenals, both in terms of quantity and sophistication, Fu said "For them, hyping up the China factor is nothing but a ploy to divert world attention, and to create a pretext under which they can walk away from the New START [Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty], as they have done with so many other arms control treaties. The real purpose is to get rid of all possible restrictions and have a free hand in seeking overwhelming military superiority over any adversary, real or imagined," he said. If the US says it is ready to come down to the Chinese level in terms of its nuclear arsenal, China will be happy to participate, according to Fu.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1193892.shtml>

### **US military's frequent close-up air recons on China's coastal area 'dangerous'**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 8, 2020

US military aircraft reportedly conducted close-up reconnaissance operations on China's southern coast for three consecutive days, which is a dangerous sign, as the moves could let the US grasp the technical parameters, locations and movements of the Chinese military's weapons and equipment over the South China Sea and Taiwan island, Chinese military experts warned on Wednesday. A US EP-3E signals reconnaissance aircraft on Wednesday morning flew through the Bashi Channel, edged near the "middle line" of the Taiwan Straits from the south, then turned southwest and approached the coastal areas of South China's Guangdong Province. At one point, it came only 51.68 nautical miles from Guangdong, Taiwan media reported Wednesday.

This is the third consecutive day the US has conducted similar operations. On Monday an RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft and on Tuesday an EP-3E also approached the Guangdong coast, only 60.89 and 60.94 nautical miles away respectively, according to the South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative (SCSPI), a think tank at Peking University. Song Zhongping, a Chinese military expert and TV commentator, told the Global Times on Wednesday that unlike the recent exercises by US dual aircraft carriers in the South China Sea, the reconnaissance aircraft's operations are not just a show, as they were conducting reconnaissance missions in preparation for potential military conflict.

Both the EP-3E and RC-135 can capture electromagnetic signals including communication signals, after which they can analyze them and obtain valuable information like the current status of China's weapons and equipment and the latest movements of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Song said, noting that for instance, an RC-135 could detect ballistic missiles, including the location of their bases and transporter erector launchers. The US is also interested in the movements of Chinese submarines and surface vessels, for which it would also use P-3C and P-8A aircraft, Song said. According to publicly available information, many warships of the PLA South China Sea Fleet are homeported at a naval base in Guangdong's Zhanjiang, and the PLA Southern Theater Command, which has the 74th and 75th Group Army, is also headquartered in Guangdong's Guangzhou. One of the most important missions of the PLA Southern Theater Command and South China Sea Fleet is to safeguard China's interests in the South China Sea, and they would also support the Eastern Theater Command in a potential reunification-by-force operation on the island of Taiwan, observers said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1193949.shtml>

### **Advanced weapons deployed at China's plateau regions**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 7, 2020

China had deployed a variety of advanced weapons fit for high-altitude combat to the country's western plateau regions as India continued to move forces and hold drills amid border tensions between the two countries, media reported. The Chinese deployment came before the latest consensus reached by both countries on de-escalating border tensions, as the two sides have now agreed on the disengagement of frontline soldiers. The weapons, including the PHL-03 and PHL-11 self-propelled multiple rocket launcher systems, PCL-181 vehicle-mounted howitzers, HJ-10 anti-tank missiles, towed 35mm anti-aircraft guns, Type 15 light tanks and Z-10 attack helicopters were deployed to Northwest China's high-altitude desert regions and Southwest China's Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, according to several reports by China Central Television (CCTV) over the past week.

These weapons are very useful at high altitudes as many are specially designed for plateau operations with the lack of oxygen in such regions taken into account, the reports said. An Indian report on Tuesday said that India recently held drills featuring aircraft including Apache attack helicopters at a forward base near the Line of Actual Control. India has also deployed T-90 tanks to the Galwan Valley, a separate Indian report said in late June. A Chinese military expert told the Global Times on Tuesday under condition of anonymity that the Chinese weapons were carefully selected to best suit high-altitude warfare and combat potential enemies' weapons of choice. China's rockets and artillery can target hostile fortifications and other ground targets, anti-aircraft guns can clear the sky, anti-tank missiles and attack helicopters can wipe out enemy tanks, and friendly tanks can take the ground, the expert said. Chinese analysts said that China would welcome talks and de-escalation, but the Chinese military will remain prepared if the Indians again make any provocative moves.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1193791.shtml>

### **Chinese envoy deposits instrument of accession to arms trade treaty to UN chief**

China Military online, July 7, 2020

Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, on Monday deposited the instrument of accession to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) of the People's Republic of China to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. After depositing the instrument of accession, Zhang said that the Chinese government "attaches high importance to the problems caused by illicit transfer and abuse of conventional arms. China supports the purposes and goals of the treaty and agrees on taking necessary measures to regulate international arms trade and combat illicit arms transfer."

Meanwhile, China always strictly regulates export of military articles, "with policies and management measures meeting or in some areas even exceeding ATT requirements." It is worth pointing out that China only allows export to sovereign states, not non-state actors. This fully demonstrates its high sense of responsibility. China calls on all parties to strictly regulate export of military items, disallow export to non-state actors and stop interfering in sovereign states' internal affairs through arms export, he said.

The envoy noted that accession to the ATT is another important step in China's active participation in global arms trade governance to safeguard international and regional peace and stability. "It demonstrates China's resolve and sincerity in maintaining international arms control regime, supporting multilateralism, and forging a community with a shared future for mankind. It will further enhance the treaty's universality and contribute to global security governance and international arms control process."

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/07/content\\_9848316.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/07/content_9848316.htm)

### **BDS promotes China-Arab cooperation to higher level**

China Military Online, July 7, 2020

On July 6, the 9th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum was held via video-link. "The BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) is China's first space infrastructure to provide public services for the world. During the development of the BeiDou-3 system, we have always kept our Arab friends in mind," Wang Zhaoyao, Chairman of the China Satellite Navigation Committee, told reporters. "Today, a China-Arab "Space Silk Road" is in the making. The BDS is bound to promote the cooperation between China and Arab states to a higher level."



[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/07/content\\_9848387.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/07/content_9848387.htm)

### **Chinese military representatives attend ADSOM-Plus video conference**

China Military Online, July 7, 2020

Vietnam, chair of ASEAN 2020, convened Tuesday a video conference of the ASEAN Defense Senior Officials' Meeting-Plus (ADSOM-Plus), which was attended by representatives from ten member states of ASEAN and its eight dialogue partners including China as well as the ASEAN Secretariat. During the conference, participants shared views on regional security in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and other topics. While briefing the participants on the Chinese military's engagement and experience in combating COVID-19, the Chinese side proposed that all parties enhance the capability of jointly addressing non-traditional security challenges so as to facilitate security and development of the region.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/07/content\\_9848629.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-07/07/content_9848629.htm)

### **China delivers armed drones, missiles to Serbia, first deal to Europe**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 6, 2020

Serbia has reportedly taken delivery of a batch of CH-92A armed reconnaissance drones plus missiles recently, the first time China has exported military-use aviation equipment to a European country and a milestone for Chinese arms firms in the European market, analysts said on Monday. The drones are expected to become some of the most advanced weapons in the Serbian arsenal, as the cost-efficient unmanned aircraft can conduct tactical reconnaissance, precision targeting, ground attack and patrol missions, experts said. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic inspected the drones on Saturday local time, according to Serbia's Ministry of Defense.

A total of nine CH-92A drones plus 18 FT-8C air-to-ground missiles were included in the delivery. Fifteen more drones are expected in future procurements, reports said. Developed by the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), the CH-92A drone has a combat radius of more than 250 kilometers, a ceiling of 5,000 meters, and a maximum speed of 200 kilometers an hour, and it can carry two missiles, including the FT-8C air-to-ground missile that can reach targets 9 kilometers away, according to publicly available information.

Chinese military observers pointed out that while the monetary worth of the deal is not high, this is the first time China has exported military-use aviation equipment to a European country, which will have great significance in Chinese arms firms' position in the European market. Wei said that other European countries that run on a tight military budget can now take a closer look at Chinese drones, such as the CH series and Wing Loong series. Chinese arms firms have been active providers of military-use drones in the international market, as CH series and Wing Loong series drones can often be seen in the Middle East and Africa. As of December 2018, 100 Wing Loong drones had been delivered to foreign clients. Chinese weapons and equipment are well known on the international market not only because of their high efficiency and low cost, but also good after-sales services and logistics support, observers said, noting that China does not attach political conditions to arms sales, unlike some countries such as the US.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1193700.shtml>

## **China has wide selection of anti-aircraft carrier weapons at South China Sea: experts**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 4, 2020

The US is sending two aircraft carriers and other warships to the South China Sea for exercises on Saturday at a time when the Chinese military is also conducting drills in the South China Sea's Xisha Islands. After criticizing China just two days ago for holding exercises, the US again showed its hypocrisy and demonstrated that it is the real source of potential regional instability, analysts said. The USS Ronald Reagan and USS Nimitz aircraft carriers are holding large-scale exercises in the South China Sea together with four other warships starting Saturday, CNN reported on Saturday.

This means the US exercises are coinciding with China's drills in the South China Sea near the Xisha Islands, which run from Wednesday to Sunday, according to a notice released by China's Maritime Safety Administration. In a statement on Thursday, the Pentagon claimed the Chinese drills were "counter-productive to efforts at easing tensions and maintaining stability," Reuters reported.

"The US is saying one thing and doing another. It is applying different standards on China's actions than it does on its own," a military expert who asked not to be identified told the Global Times on Saturday. China's Foreign Ministry previously called similar US moves "flexing of muscles by some non-regional country that lies tens of thousands of miles away." The South China Sea is fully within the grasp of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), and any US aircraft carrier movement in the region is solely at the pleasure of the PLA, which has a wide selection of anti-aircraft carrier weapons like the DF-21D and DF-26 "aircraft carrier killer" missiles, analysts noted.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1193485.shtml>

## **China's helicopter carrier expands capability with drone**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 2, 2020

China's Type 075 amphibious assault ships, the largest warships second only to aircraft carriers, are receiving drone helicopters that can significantly expand their combat capability by providing strong situational awareness, reports suggest, after a full-scale model for an unknown type of drone helicopter was recently spotted on a Type 075 in Shanghai. According to a photo circulating on a social media platform, the drone helicopter model is seen parked on the flight deck of a Type 075, which is undergoing outfitting work, Weihutang, a program on military affairs affiliated with China Central Television (CCTV), reported on Thursday.

Compared with the model of a Z-8 or Z-18 helicopter right next to the drone helicopter in the photo, it is about half the size, making it approximately 10 meters long and three meters tall, a relatively large drone helicopter. The exact type of the drone helicopter model remains undetermined, but analysts speculate it could be an AR500C, China's first high-altitude unmanned helicopter that made its maiden flight in May, the Weihutang report said. Putting models on a warship's flight deck is a usual approach in outfitting and sea trials to test the compatibility between the aircraft and the ship, finding the best way to arrange the layout, a military expert who asked not to be named told the Global Times on Thursday. The US Navy also has similar drone helicopters, namely the MQ-8 Fire Scout, on its warships. Drone helicopters can conduct

reconnaissance, aerial fire support and precision targeting support missions. Since drones are much smaller than manned helicopters, a warship can carry more of them, the expert said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1193369.shtml>

### **Could China's unwanted FC-31 Gyrfalcon stealth fighter finally land a role in the navy?**

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, July 2, 2020

Plans to start testing a new fighter next year have raised speculation that the designer is trying to develop a warplane for the country's new aircraft carriers. Plane's size and weight may make it a good candidate for adaptation for naval use after the air force declined to commission it. A Chinese aviation firm has said it hopes to start testing a new jet next year, prompting speculation that it may be working on a naval version of the FC-31. The fifth-generation fighter, also known as the Gyrfalcon, has so far failed to attract buyers from the Chinese air force or foreign militaries, but defence analysts said it may be possible to adapt it for the new generation of Chinese carriers.

Social media posts by the Chinese Aeronautical Establishment, the research and development branch of the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, said its plans to develop a new fighter were still on track despite the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak. "Judging by current progress, our work can be delivered on schedule and the test flight of the new type aircraft can be guaranteed without delay," it said, without specifying the type of fighter it is developing.

In the report, the CAE said its staff were working together with the Institute 601, or Shenyang Aircraft Corporation, the maker of the FC-31 and the J-15, the fighter currently used by the navy. The FC-31 is the second domestically produced stealth fighter and was designed to match the American Lockheed Martin F-35 and has broadly similar specifications.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3091563/could-chinas-unwanted-fc-31-gyrfalcon-stealth-fighter-finally>

### **China 'prepared against military provocation from Australia'**

Zhang Yichi and Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 2, 2020

Australia released two papers on Wednesday that define the country's future defense strategy and military development. According to the papers, Australia will invest heavily in the development and procurement of weapons and equipment, including aggressive, long-range items. These weapon procurement plans have been widely interpreted as being "aimed at China," and Chinese experts said on Thursday that while the Chinese military has no intention of provoking Australia, it is also not afraid of Australian provocations.

Australia's Department of Defense released the 2020 Defense Strategic Update and 2020 Force Structure Plan on Wednesday, showing that the country will invest heavily in weapons for land, sea, air, space and cyberspace including warships, submarines, hypersonic missiles, stealth fighter jets and tanks. A factsheet released by the Australian Defense Department pointed out that Australia is in a "strategic competition primarily between the US and China." Judging from the specifics of the listed weapons and equipment, analysts noted that they are obviously not intended for homeland defense, but for long-range combat.

Many of these weapons come from the US, so intelligence exchange with the US military will be easy, analysts said, noting that Australia's geographic location means it can become a key base for the US military in the direction of the South China Sea. Foreign media reports said the military expansion of Australia is aimed at China. But If Australia wants to provoke China, China is also ready to defend itself. Australia is only a follower of the US and its capability in the South China Sea will be limited despite the new plans, they said. Li said that China may develop defense systems among other measures to deal with potential Australia-US collaboration against it, and China can also take countermeasures in terms of politics, diplomacy and economic measures.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1193392.shtml>

### **Chinese diplomat slams US accusation at disarmament conference**

Global Times, July 1, 2020

China to join Arms Trade Treaty, supports multilateralism. Chinese diplomat expressed strong opposition to the US at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on Tuesday, saying its accusations against China regarding epidemic control and arms control policy were complete nonsense, and called for the US to abandon its Cold War mentality. The vicious attack by the US on China over the epidemic is complete nonsense and is an attempt to shirk its domestic and international anti-epidemic responsibility, and their clumsy trick of trying to dump responsibility has long been known to the world, said Chinese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Disarmament Affairs Li Song.

Speaking at the conference via video link, US disarmament ambassador to the UN Robert Wood made attacks on the Chinese government, accusing China of concealing the epidemic and harming the world. Wood also unreasonably criticized China's nuclear arms control policy and military building, arguing that China poses a major threat to world peace and security.

At the conference, Wood also quoted comments made by Hu Xijin, the editor-in-chief of the Global Times, who had said China should expand its number of nuclear warheads to 1,000, and demanded that China give an explanation. Ambassador Li noted that Hu said doesn't represent China's arms control policy, but his comments do represent the general concerns of the Chinese and international community regarding the hostility and threats from the US. The deep-rooted Cold War mentality cannot make the US stronger again, nor can it bring security to the world, Li said. It's crystal clear to the world which country poses the greatest and most realistic threat to world peace and security. Whether it's from the perspective of nuclear strategic policies or the scale of its nuclear arsenals, China and the US are totally incomparable, Li stressed. In his address at the conference, which had been postponed for three months due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Li said that China will firmly support multilateralism and promote the advancement of international arms control and non-proliferation. Li said that China will officially join the Arms Trade Treaty.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1193163.shtml>