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# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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## **Mainland China deploys more amphibious weapons along coast in Taiwan mission**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, August 5, 2020

A satellite image shows China's PLA has deployed many amphibious armoured vehicles to its newly established amphibious combined arms brigades in the Eastern Theatre Command across from Taiwan. Photo: Kanwa Defence Review  
A satellite image shows China's PLA has deployed many amphibious armoured vehicles to its newly established amphibious combined arms brigades in the Eastern Theatre Command across from Taiwan. The People's Liberation Army has deployed more amphibious weapon systems in mainland China's coastal cities across the strait from Taiwan in a sign that the armed forces are keen to play a key role in the long-standing mission to "reunify Taiwan", according to an analyst.

The amphibious brigades evolved from the first amphibious mechanised infantry division of the 71st Army Group, which split into three amphibious combined-arms brigades amid President Xi Jinping's military overhaul of 2017, according to a military source close to the PLA. However, rather than a blue colour, the green camouflage of the Type 05 amphibious armoured vehicles indicate they belong to the ground forces. The PLA ground forces have 13 army groups and many of the infantry divisions were split into nimble combined-arms brigades during the unprecedented military overhaul staged by Xi, who also chairs the powerful Central Military Commission. "The PLA ground forces want to play an active role in the Taiwan issue because so far their weapon systems are powerful enough to attack Taiwan without the help of missile force," Kanwa Asian Defence chief editor Andrei Chang said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3096179/mainland-deploys-more-amphibious-weapons-along-coast-long>

## **PLA Army's attack helicopters conduct sea-crossing assault drills on Navy warship**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, August 5, 2020

Z-10 attack helicopters attached to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Army recently conducted a series of sea-crossing assault drills on a Navy warship. The combination of Army helicopters and Navy warships can significantly boost the PLA's amphibious, vertical landing capability and will play a vital role in potential military operations on the island of Taiwan, military analysts said on Wednesday. An aviation brigade under the 73rd Group Army and a Navy vessel squadron recently held an exercise on cross-service integration between helicopters and warships, in which Army helicopters including the Z-10, Z-9 and Mi-171 landed on a Navy warship and conducted coordinated command and sea-crossing assault drills in a southern sea area off East China's Fujian Province, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Tuesday.

During the drills, the Army helicopters took off from a land base, approached the sea area where the Navy's Type 071 amphibious landing ship was located, and landed on the flight deck of the warship, the report said. After soldiers boarded the aircraft, transport helicopters took off again and headed toward the mission area at low altitude under the cover of attack helicopters. On arriving at the designated areas, the soldiers aboard the helicopters rappelled down the helicopters and initiated the attack, CCTV reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1196799.shtml>

## **US-China relations: militaries carry out missile tests as tensions continue to simmer**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, August 5, 2020

China and the United States have conducted ballistic missile tests as the two nations remain locked in a bitter rivalry. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Rocket Force fired two missiles – a DF-26 and a DF-16 – during a recent exercise, the official Chinese military news website 81.cn reported on Tuesday. It did not give an exact date for the tests. The DF-26 has a range of 4,000km (2,500 miles) and is China's first conventionally armed ballistic missile capable of striking Guam, a US territory in the western Pacific. The DF-16 is the PLA's most accurate short to medium range ballistic missile, designed to hit targets in Japan, including the US military bases in Okinawa. "We are in a highly alert state for combat, to ensure our actions are prompt and precise," Liu Yang, the commander of the brigade that carried out the tests, was quoted as saying. The brigade also took part in an exercise to test their emergency response to an incoming nuclear attack, the report said.

In January, the PLA Rocket Force tested its ability to launch a nuclear counter-attack from within a sealed underground missile facility. Meanwhile, the US Air Force Global Strike Command said it launched an unarmed intercontinental ballistic missile on Tuesday morning. The missile, fitted with three re-entry vehicles – which in wartime could be replaced with nuclear warheads – flew more than 6,000km from a base in California before splashing down at a US testing range in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean. According to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute published in June, the US has 5,800 nuclear warheads, more than any other country in the world.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3096159/us-china-relations-militaries-carry-out-missile-tests-tensions>

## **PLA brigade improves battlefield support efficiency via data flow**

China Military Online, August 5, 2020

In a recent live-fire exercise, the logistic support department of a brigade under the PLA 79th Group Army greatly reduced the fuel supplement time for troops in maneuver, through coordinated multi-dimensional supply. With the help of real-time data flow, the brigade's logistic support department only dispatched part of its personnel to respond to the troops' demands in the exercise for materials, fuels and equipment and achieved a high efficiency.

According to Zhang Guo, a quartermaster of the brigade, the logistics and armament supply data of the whole brigade is updated in real time during the exercise, providing the quartermasters with various information on hydrological situation, weather conditions, transportation and terrain conditions in battlefield, as well as the updates on equipment performance, material consumption and battle damage. It's said that to ensure precise deployment of resources and efficient supply delivery in the battlefield, the brigade in recent years conducted in-depth research on its various battlefield support demands, established data link allowing information exchange among all logistics and armament support commanding platforms, combat units and support units, and realized multilayer integration of various links and elements.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-08/05/content\\_9875487.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-08/05/content_9875487.htm)

## **Chinese academician warns of 'nuclear-bomb like cyberattack' from US against 5G**

Liu Caiyu

Global Times, August 5, 2020

While the US frequently accuses other countries of launching cyberattacks, including China, a Chinese academician said Wednesday that the real threat to cybersecurity is "cyberattack as deadly as a nuclear bomb" launched by the US, suggesting that a new computing system be constructed to defend against attacks on new infrastructure such as 5G. Malicious software like ransomware is a "piece of cake" compared to the violent cyber-terrorism carried out by anti-China forces, which threatens national security, Shen Changxiang, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering and also an expert on the advisory panel for the Office of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission, said at the 2020 Internet Security Conference on Wednesday.

Commenting on the essence of cybersecurity, Shen said, "Cyber warfare is now floating on the surface of the water. The US wants to create 'cyberattack as deadly as a nuclear bomb' and attempt to achieve 'cyber nuclear blackmail.'" In Western countries, 5G networks, as new infrastructure, are regarded as future geopolitical weapons, and the US and some European nations often deliberately set up blockades and accuse Chinese enterprises of posing national security threats in launching 5G construction. To deal with the cybersecurity threats against China's new infrastructure, Shen said the old methods of using firewalls, virus tracking and intrusion detection are not enough to deal with new threats, noting that a new computing system that fundamentally changes the principle of computing security defense is needed. Similar to humans' immune system, a "trusted computing" system using an intelligent security card can identify an "enemy" and destroy and exclude harmful substances from entering. The system uses a password to carry out functions such as identification, status measurement and secret storage, Shen said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1196855.shtml>

### **PLA Army arrives in Russia for Tank Biathlon of IAG 2020**

China Military Online, August 5, 2020

According to the news from Russian Eastern Military Region, a train carrying the Chinese PLA Army team and its equipment has arrived at the Zabaikalsk railway station in the Trans-Baikal Territory on August 4, 2020, to participate in the Tank Biathlon competition of the annual International Army Games (IAG). This team includes 27 Army soldiers and 18 armored and wheeled vehicles. It is learned that all the Chinese military members have undergone the tests for the COVID-19. They were warmly welcomed at the railway station by the Russian side with bread and salt in a traditional way.

The 6th International Army Games will be held in Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Uzbekistan from August 23 to September 5, involving more than 160 teams from 30 countries. There will be 31 competitions for IAG 2020, of which Tank Biathlon is considered as the highlight. This is the 7th time that PLA Army's armored force has participated in the competition since 2014, with the second place as best result for three times. This year's contestants are assigned to a brigade under the PLA 78th Group Army.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-08/05/content\\_9875457.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-08/05/content_9875457.htm)

### **China-Kazakhstan military cooperation fruitful: ambassador**

MOD, August 3, 2020

Cooperation between the armed forces of China and Kazakhstan is developing steadily in a healthy and reliable manner, which corresponds to the comprehensiveness and strategic importance of bilateral relations, Chinese Ambassador to Kazakhstan Zhang Xiao told Kazakh media on Saturday. On the occasion of the 93rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, the ambassador said the two sides have conducted military exchanges, competitions and training, and closely cooperated on the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism, as well as "color revolutions" in the region. Their cooperation has protected the key interests of the two countries and contributed to the security, stability and prosperity of the region, said Zhang.

[http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-08/03/content\\_4869153.htm](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-08/03/content_4869153.htm)

### **Building stronger defense crucial goal**

Mo Jingxi

China Daily, August 2, 2020

China should advance modernization of its national defense and armed forces in order to build a strong country, said Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee. Xi made the remark while presiding over a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on Thursday, two days before China's Army Day. To develop socialism with Chinese characteristics and realize the great national rejuvenation, efforts must be made to strengthen coordination between economic development and efforts to build a strong military, he said.

This will ensure that the modernization of national defense and the armed forces accommodates the national modernization process and the country's military capability matches national strategic needs, Xi said. Stressing that building a strong national defense and armed forces is a goal that the CPC has assiduously sought, Xi said that China will achieve the targets and missions of strengthening the national defense and armed forces for 2020 and begin a new journey to fully transform the people's armed forces into a world-class one.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202008/01/WS5f24b064a31083481725d87c.html>

### **China's Mars probe Tianwen-1 completes first mid-course correction**

Cui Fandi

Global Times, August 2, 2020

Tianwen-1, China's first Mars probe, completed its first mid-course correction on Sunday, allowing it to continue heading toward the Red Planet precisely, according to the China National Space Administration (CNSA). The administration said that the maneuver took place at 7 am after its 3000N engine was activated for 20 seconds. By the time of the mid-course correction, the probe had traveled approximately 230 hours. It was some 3 million kilometers away from Earth, with all systems reported as running normally, the administration said in a statement.

"The first of many mid-course corrections ensures Tianwen-1's short-term stability on its orbit to Mars," commented Wang Yanan, chief editor of Aerospace Knowledge magazine. Several more mid-course corrections and deep-space maneuvers are expected to be made during the probe's 6-month-plus space journey before reaching Mars' orbit, in order to ensure a smooth journey to the Red Planet. Orbit correction of a Mars rover is similar to that of an automobile, Zhu Qinghua, a deputy chief technician with the probe's orbiter system was quoted in a report by China News

Service as saying. But "the difference is we need to correct not only the flight direction, but also the flight speed and other variables." This is much harder given that there are no road markings to refer to, Zhu said in the report. "The inner logic of orbit correction of a Mars rover is similar to that of a self-driving car," explained Wang. The difference, however, lies in that spacecrafts have more complex orbits, the adjustment of which requires effort from both the probe itself and the scientists on the ground.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1196445.shtml>

### **China's J-20 carrier-based jet fighter influenced by US – not Soviet – thinking, designer says**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, August 2, 2020

The chief designer of the J-20 said the plane was a better match for US fighters. Photo: Xinhua  
As tensions between Beijing and Washington continue to rise, China's military aircraft designers are racing to develop a next-generation fighter jet for use on the nation's aircraft carriers capable of competing with their American rivals. The two contenders are Chengdu Aircraft Design Institute (CADI), which is working on a modified version of its J-20, and Shenyang Aircraft Design Institute, which is adapting its FC-31. While both aircraft have been in development for many years, CADI's chief designer, Yang Wei, said recently the J-20 was a better match for US fighters. The aircraft was inspired by American theories on air combat and jet development, he said in a recent article published in the Chinese journal Acta Aeronautica et Astronautica Sinica.

Military observers said that by openly stating he had learned from American ideas, Yang was trying to promote the modified J-20 as a superior option to the adapted FC-31, which is based on much older, Soviet, designs. The designer also said in the article that the US military had been able to develop a carrier-based jet fighter and put it into mass production in less than six years.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3095658/chinas-j-20-carrier-based-jet-fighter-influenced-us-not-soviet>

### **Xi stresses modernization of national defense, armed forces**

MOD, August 1, 2020

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed advancing the modernization of the national defense and armed forces. Xi made the remarks while presiding over a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on strengthening the modernization of the national defense and armed forces, which was held on Thursday.

To uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics and achieve national rejuvenation, Xi underscored ensuring both development and security, and ensuring that efforts to make the country prosperous and efforts to make the military strong go hand in hand. The modernization of the national defense and armed forces must be in step with the country's modernization process, and the military capabilities must fit national strategic needs, Xi said. Xi said the CPC has always been striving to build strong national defense and powerful military forces, and has made great achievements in this regard.

[http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-08/01/content\\_4869020.htm](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-08/01/content_4869020.htm)

## **Xi officially announces commissioning of BDS-3 navigation system**

MOD, July 31, 2020

Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, officially announced the commissioning of China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS-3) on Friday.

Xi made the announcement while attending the completion and commissioning ceremony for the newly completed BDS-3 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. After the ceremony, Xi visited the exhibition of the construction and development of the BDS, and listened to the introduction of project construction, operation services, application and promotion, international cooperation, and prospects for future development. Xi said the completion and opening of the BDS-3 fully reflects the political advantage of China's socialist system in mobilizing resources for major undertakings.

[http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-07/31/content\\_4869017.htm](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-07/31/content_4869017.htm)

## **US-China relations: PLA bombers carry out 'attack exercise' in South China Sea**

Catherine Wong

South China Morning Post, July 30, 2020

Chinese bombers took part in a high-intensity exercise over the South China Sea, Beijing said on Thursday, just weeks after two US aircraft carrier strike groups conducted drills of their own in the disputed waters. Both H-6G and H-6J bombers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) were involved in the drills, which simulated nighttime take-offs, long-range raids and attacks on sea targets, the defence ministry said. The exercise was part of the Chinese military's regular operations to boost its combat readiness, spokesman Ren Guoqiang. He did not specify the exact location of the drill or say when it took place. Meanwhile, the PLA Southern Theatre Command said on Thursday that a naval fleet of three frigates – the Liupanshui, Qujing and Meizhou – took part in a drill in the South China Sea earlier this month. The increase in military manoeuvres comes amid a sharp uptick in tensions between China and the United States over the strategic waterway.

Earlier this month, Washington formally labelled most of China's maritime claims in the South China Sea illegal, with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo saying the US and the world would not allow Beijing to treat the waterway as its "maritime empire". Ren, however, said China had "indisputable sovereignty" over the South China Sea and said the exercises led by the USS Ronald Reagan and USS Nimitz aircraft carrier strike groups were evidence of America's "hegemonic attitude" in disturbing the peace and stability in the region.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3095398/us-china-relations-pla-bombers-carry-out-attack-exercise-south>