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# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

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## **Chinese military media told to steer clear of US election stories**

William Zheng

South China Morning Post, October 5, 2020

The Chinese military has told its propagandists to steer clear of US election coverage to ensure so their reports are not “misread as taking sides” in the presidential race, according to a military source. Unlike other Chinese outlets, all traditional and social media platforms controlled by the People’s Liberation Army, including its mouthpiece the PLA Daily, have offered no coverage of US President Donald Trump’s coronavirus infection and the first US presidential debate. A military source, who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue, said that since late September many orders had come from the “top” telling military propagandists to “strictly avoid US election topics”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3104270/chinese-military-media-told-ster-clear-us-election-stories>

## **Xi says ready to bring China-Bangladesh ties to new heights**

Xinhua, October 4, 2020

Chinese President Xi Jinping said that he stands ready to work with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Md. Abdul Hamid, to better align the two countries' strategies and jointly promote the construction of the Belt and Road, so as to take the China-Bangladesh strategic partnership of cooperation to new heights. Xi made the remarks in an exchange of congratulatory messages with Hamid to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. In his message, Xi said the China-Bangladesh friendship has a long history and remains ever new over time. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 45 years ago, the two countries have always respected each other and treated each other as equals, enhanced political mutual trust and deepened mutually beneficial cooperation that brings tangible benefits to the two peoples, Xi noted.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Bangladesh have stuck together through thick and thin, helped each other and fought against the pandemic side by side, writing a new chapter of bilateral friendship, Xi said. For his part, Hamid said in the message that the Bangladesh-China relationship is developing rapidly and has covered cooperation in key areas, to which Bangladesh attaches great importance. He expressed his deep appreciation for China's continuous support for Bangladesh in its socio-economic development progress, adding that he believes the close and friendly relationship between the two countries will continue to deepen in the future.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-10/04/c\\_139417703.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-10/04/c_139417703.htm)

## **PLA drones support Motuo frontline soldiers in Tibet for first time**

Global Times, October 4, 2020

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) ground forces adopted 10 UAVs — or drones — to provide logistic support for the first time to soldiers stationed at the remote Motuo region in Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. China Central Television (CCTV) reported that the 10 drones opened air routes to the four frontlines stations of the PLA Tibet Military Command in Motuo region through satellite positioning, automatic take-off and landing, intelligent cruise and fixed-point delivery.

The stations, located in dense forests of the high mountains, are often hit by landslides and heavy snow, and the soldiers at the stations are PLA's only frontline troops who relied on manpower on foot to transport food. The delivery of the drones ahead of the National Day holiday enabled soldiers to have fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, milk and eggs, and even mooncakes. It used to take 120 soldiers two to three days to transport the supplies to the stations, and soldiers mostly ate dehydrated vegetables and canned food.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1202698.shtml>

### **What could China do to hit back at a US drone attack?**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 3, 2020

One option could be to target the base where the American unmanned vehicle came from, a Chinese strategist says. Assessment follows a shift in US drone exercises towards the Pacific. China's most effective response to a multiple US drone attack could be to hit back at the unmanned vehicles' base and destroy the entire fleet, a Chinese military analyst suggested after reports that a recent US drone exercise might have been aimed at China. As one of the hi-tech weapons of modern warfare, drones can be difficult to detect because they are small and operate at low altitudes. So the most effective countermeasure could be to shoot down at least enemy drone, use data from the debris to determine where it came from and then blow up the rest of the fleet at its base, the observer said. That though could lead to a rapid escalation in tensions.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3103827/what-could-china-do-hit-back-us-drone-attack>

### **Taiwan under psychological attack as Chinese warplanes cross median line, analysts say**

Lawrence Chung

South China Morning Post, October 3, 2020

Taiwan is facing its worst cross-strait military crisis in over two decades, with the People's Liberation Army sending dozens of warplanes into the island's air defence identification zone in the past month as tensions escalate. Nearly 40 of those incursions involved warplanes crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait, the unofficial airspace boundary between Taiwan and mainland China. According to analysts, passing that sensitive midline is a serious threat to the self-governed island that leaves Taiwan's air force with little time to respond.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3103985/taiwan-under-psychological-attack-chinese-warplanes-cross>

### **Nation's largest marine patrol vessel launched**

Li Wenfang

China Daily, September 30, 2020

China's largest maritime patrol vessel, which was launched in a shipyard in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, on Tuesday, is destined to help improve maritime traffic governance, officials said. Haixun 09, built at China State Shipbuilding Corp's Guangzhou Wenchong Shipyard, will be managed by the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration. It is expected

to go into service next year. The 165-meter maritime safety patrol vessel has a displacement of 10,700 metric tons and speed of more than 25 knots (46 kilometers per hour), said Yan Peibo, the ship's chief construction engineer.

It can sail more than 10,000 nautical miles (18,520 kilometers) at an economical speed of 16 knots and make voyages of more than 90 days. The ship has a helicopter landing pad and a data center with multiple sets of satellite communication systems, including China's Beidou Navigation Satellite System. The ship's construction started in May 2019. Haixun 09 is expected to serve as an important platform for law enforcement, emergency coordination and command and pollution prevention, the administration said in a statement. China currently has in service three maritime safety patrol vessels with a displacement of over 3,000 metric tons.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202009/30/WS5f72ef42a31024ad0ba7ca77.html>

### **Lift-off for China's high-altitude helicopter drone prototype**

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, September 29, 2020

China has tested a high-altitude drone helicopter designed for missions on the country's disputed border with India, according to state media reports. A prototype of the AR-500C unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) completed its maiden flight at an airport 4,411 metres (14,450 feet) above sea level in Sichuan province in southwestern China, neighbouring Tibet, on Sunday, the reports said. During the 15-minute flight, the Chinese-designed and built drone completed a series of tests including climbing, hovering and rotating before steadily landing, its developer, state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (Avic), said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3103535/lift-chinas-high-altitude-helicopter-drone-prototype>

### **China launches largest maritime patrol ship amid rising regional tensions**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, September 30, 2020

China launched a new maritime patrol vessel on Tuesday – the largest and most advanced to join its civilian fleet – as tensions rise between Beijing and its neighbours over the disputed South China Sea. The Haixun09 – meaning “sea patrol” – is big enough to accommodate several types of helicopters and will be able to handle rough seas and strong winds, its chief engineer Yan Peibo told state-run China National Radio. With a displacement of 10,700 tonnes, it is larger than the navy's Type 052 guided-missile destroyers that accompany its aircraft carriers, and analysts say it could be used to assert Beijing's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3103690/china-launches-largest-maritime-patrol-ship-amid-rising>

### **China's unmanned plateau helicopter completes high-altitude maiden flight**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, September 28, 2020

China's first independently developed unmanned helicopter that will focus on plateau operation successfully completed its maiden flight in a plateau region on Sunday, a milestone that demonstrates the capability of this agile drone. The aircraft is expected to join missions in the high-altitude China-India border region including logistics support and armed reconnaissance amid tensions, analysts said. The AR-500C prototype completed its first plateau flight at the Daocheng Yading Airport, which is the world's highest civilian airport with an elevation of 4,411 meters, the state-owned Aviation Industry Corp of China (AVIC), the aircraft's developer, said in a statement on Monday. This flight broke the record for the elevation at which a domestically built unmanned helicopter took off and landed.

During the 15-minute flight, the drone completed a series of tests including climbing, hovering, rotating and other operations maneuvers, before steadily landing, AVIC said. This demonstrated the AR-500C's general ability to fly in all types of terrain, showing that its development has made significant progress, the company said. A separate AVIC statement released in May, when the AR-500C made its maiden flight in a low-altitude region, said that the drone will be used in missions including reconnaissance and communication relay, with optional functions including electronic disruption, target indication, fire strikes, cargo delivery, and nuclear radiation and chemical contamination reconnaissance. The first plateau flight of the AR-500C comes at a time when China and India have been engaged in border tension at high elevations since May.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1202375.shtml>

### **Chinese military holds drills near Parcel Islands for a third time this year**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, September 28, 2020

China's military conducted naval drills near the disputed Parcel Islands in the South China Sea on Monday, the third time it has carried out exercises in the area this year. The Maritime Safety Administration issued two notices on Saturday announcing two no-go zones near the islands from 7am to 3pm because of the drills. The Paracels, known as the Xisha Islands in Chinese, have been occupied by China since 1974 but are also claimed by Taipei and Hanoi.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3103393/south-china-sea-chinese-military-holds-drills-near-paracel>

### **Nation demonstrates third-generation nuclear reactor CAP1400**

Huang Lanlan and Chu Daye

Global Times, September 28, 2020

The research and development work for China's domestic third-generation nuclear reactor project called CAP1400 (Guo He One) has been completed, State Power Investment Corp (SPIC) announced on Monday. The US-launched trade war and Washington's technological restrictions on Chinese companies won't contain the development of the advanced CAP1400, SPIC said at a press conference on Monday. Based on the third-generation nuclear technology AP1000, imported from the US in 2007, CAP1400 has made great technological innovations through 12 years of hard work by more than 26,000 Chinese technology engineers, said Zheng Mingguang, chief designer of CAP1400 nuclear reactors.

Equipment is also essential to the sustainable development of nuclear projects, apart from the technologies. Some 90 percent of CAP1400's equipment is domestically made, with all its

key parts and materials including the main pump being domestically designed and produced, Zheng said. CAP1400 has broken overseas technology monopolies in many areas and owns independent intellectual property and export rights, said Lu Hongzao, assistant general manager of SPIC. Compared with second-generation reactor, it extends the non-manual intervention time from 30 minutes to 72 hours, and dramatically improves safety performance against natural disasters including earthquakes and floods by 100 times, Lu said. SPIC is promoting the Guo He One brand for export. It is discussing potential partnerships with countries including Turkey and South Africa, Hao Hongsheng, general manager of the SPIC's nuclear energy department, told the Global Times on Monday, saying the technology will be competitive in the global market with relatively high degree of safety and low costs.

"We are totally confident about exports of Guo He One," Hao said, adding that the construction cost for the reactors can be reduced by 20 percent after achieving mass production. Lin Boqiang, director of the China Center for Energy Economics Research at Xiamen University, said with the first- and second-generation nuclear reactors being phased out, third-generation technology will become mainstream. "In this context, having an additional domestic nuclear technology beyond the Hualong One is of great value to China both in terms of exporting nuclear technology and the domestic development of China's nuclear industry," Lin said. In China, per capita electricity consumption will reach 5,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) this year, the National Energy Administration estimated. Therefore, a single Guo He One reactor can meet the electricity demand of 22.8 million residents with its annual output of 11.4 billion kWh, SPIC said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1202353.shtml>

### **Chinese naval escort taskforces conduct mission handover in Gulf of Aden**

China Military Online, September 27, 2020

The 35th and 36th Chinese naval escort taskforces held a mission-handover ceremony in the Gulf of Aden on September 23rd local time. After the handover ceremony, the two escort taskforces started the joint escorting mission for the Hong Kong-registered heavy cargo ship Zhenhua 27. The 35th escort taskforce left the Gulf of Aden after completing the joint escort mission. The 35th Chinese naval escort taskforce consisted of the guided-missile destroyer Taiyuan, the guided-missile frigate Jingzhou and the supply ship Chaohu. The three ships set sail from the port city of Zhoushan in east China's Zhejiang Province on April 28 this year. The taskforce has so far provided accompanying escorts for 27 batches of 49 Chinese and foreign merchant ships, and carried out relay escorts for more than 100 merchant ships in the Gulf of Aden.

The 36th escort taskforce, comprised of the guided-missile destroyer Guiyang, the guided-missile frigate Zaozhuang, the comprehensive supply ship Dongpinghu and two ship-borne helicopters, set sail from their homeport in Qingdao, a coastal city in east China's Shandong Province on September 3. During its voyage heading for the mission area, the fleet had carried out a series of specific training based on the maritime safety situation and the characteristics of escort missions, in a bid to effectively beefing up its escorting capability.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-09/27/content\\_9909817.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-09/27/content_9909817.htm)

### **Military drills in Tibet are scheduled, not target any country: Defense Spokesperson**

China Military Online, September 24, 2020

The drills conducted by the Tibet Military Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in recent days are within the annual training plan and not targeted at any specific country, said Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, new spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense, at a regular press conference. Snr. Col. Tan stated that the PLA Tibet Military Command recently organized several round-the-clock live-fire training exercises, in a bid to test the troops' adaptability and strike capability in ultra-high-altitude areas.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-09/24/content\\_9908287.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-09/24/content_9908287.htm)

### **China's space-tracking ship departs for new monitoring mission in Pacific Ocean**

Xinhua, September 24, 2020

Space-tracking ship Yuanwang-5 has departed from a port in east China's Jiangsu Province on Thursday for a maritime monitoring mission in the Pacific Ocean. This is the third voyage of the ship this year. It will spend more than 100 days at sea and is scheduled to return in early 2021. Yuanwang-5 has spent 143 days at sea in 2020 carrying out four maritime monitoring missions, providing support for China's first Mars probe and the APSTAR-6D telecommunication satellite. After docking on Aug. 10, crew members rested and examined onboard facilities, and replenished their supplies for upcoming missions. Enditem

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/24/c\\_139393936.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/24/c_139393936.htm)

### **Chinese military steps up anti-mine drills as Taiwan builds sea defences to thwart invasion**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, September 23, 2020

Taipei is investigating heavily in hi-tech asymmetric defences in the hope of delaying landings long enough for the US to come to its aid. Recent mainland Chinese drills were designed to test the PLA's ability to counter these underwater weapons. China's military incorporated mine-sweeping exercises into some of its latest naval drills targeting Taiwan, according to recent reports from state media. Taiwan has been investing in minelayers and developing sophisticated underwater mines in the hope of thwarting the People's Liberation Army's plan to take over the island within three days – a move that could buy time for other forces to come to the island's aid, according to military analysts.

In two recent naval exercises conducted by the PLA's Eastern and Southern theatre commands, the military's mine sweepers and minehunters played important roles in helping the flotillas clear sea lanes from underwater mines, state-run China Central Television reported.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3102577/chinese-military-steps-anti-mine-drills-taiwan-builds-sea>

### **Chinese top leaders visit key national defense, high-tech hubs in latest move to push for homegrown innovation**

Global Times, September 22, 2020

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He recently visited a southwestern city in China known for its expertise in the national defense military and scientific research as well as a top engineering

physics academy in the city, the latest of several visits by Chinese top leaders in the past two weeks that are aimed at pushing for homegrown innovation and calling for breakthroughs in key technologies amid an escalating tech war between China and the US. Liu, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, on Saturday visited the city of Mianyang in Southwest China's Sichuan Province, which is the only designated science and technology city in China and the second largest economy in Sichuan Province.

Liu emphasized that the city should focus on strengthening independent innovation capabilities, intensify research on key core technologies and make every effort to ensure the construction of major national projects. He also urged the city to build industrial clusters with core competitiveness that could support the development of high technologies such as satellite navigation, information security, and intelligent equipment manufacturing. The academy is the only nuclear weapons development and production department listed in China's national scientific research plan. Many scientists, including Yu Min and Deng Jiaxian, who were awarded the "Two Bombs and One Satellite Merit Award" in 1999, had held important duties at the academy.

The "Two Bombs and One Satellite" spirit was also mentioned by Chinese President Xi Jinping at a symposium attended by scientists in Beijing on September 11. At the symposium, President Xi stressed advancing the development of science and technology to a deeper and broader level. Following the symposium, experts said it's obvious Chinese society, from the top leaders to the grassroots, have reached a consensus to fight against "technology hegemony" of the US, which is moving to strangle Chinese tech giants, notably Huawei, using administrative weapons. Bai Chunli, president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, also suggested turning technologies mentioned in US' technological containment list into China's mission for future scientific and technological development, for example, the development of key raw materials and mask aligner for making chipsets.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1201630.shtml>

### **Heat-resistant materials, power integration design among China's astronomical research focuses**

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, September 18, 2020

Study into heat-resistant materials for reusable aerospace vehicles and horizontal take-off and landing vehicle's integration design with hybrid power have been named in the Top 10 "hot spot scientific issues and technical puzzles" for 2020 in the astronomical domain, coming only a few days after the safe return of China's new homegrown reusable spacecraft in early September, the Global Times learned on Friday at the China Space Conference. The list of China's scientific study directions was released on Friday at the event held in Fuzhou, East China's Fujian Province by Wang Wei, an academician with the China Academy of Sciences and director of the research and department with China's state-owned aerospace giant China Aerospace Science and Technology Cooperation.

China launched a reusable spacecraft on September 4 from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center using a Long March-2F launch vehicle. After two days of orbital flight, the vehicle made a safe landing on the designated site on September 6. However, no details on the spacecraft's measurements – not even its name – have been made public so far. Despite keeping a low profile, news of the reusable spacecraft gained a great deal of attention and led



to speculation, with many, such as space.com, the New York-based source of space news, believing that the flight mission was related to China's space plane project. Many foreign reports and Chinese netizens have been drawing comparisons between the unnamed vehicle – if it is a fixed wing space plane – and the X-37B space plane owned by the US Air Force. Nuclear power spacecraft and engineering applications are also among the top topics, aiming to ease human exploration across the solar system.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1201307.shtml>

### **PLA conducts combat-ready patrols and exercises in Taiwan Straits**

China Military Online, September 18, 2020

Recently, the naval and air forces assigned to the Eastern Theater Command (ETC) of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted the combat-ready patrols and joint air-sea exercises in the Taiwan Straits to test the joint operations capability of multiservice and arms, said Air Force Senior Colonel Zhang Chunhui, spokesperson for the PLA Eastern Theater Command, in a written statement on Friday morning.

Zhang said that the relevant moves are necessary measures to deal with the current situation across the Taiwan Straits and will help enhance the capability of troops under the PLA Eastern Theater Command to safeguard the national unity, territorial sovereignty and security.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-09/18/content\\_9905003.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-09/18/content_9905003.htm)