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# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



Prepared By: Diya Deep Singh

## **Xi meets with role models for promoting military-civilian solidarity**

Xinhua, October 20, 2020

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday met with representatives from model organizations and individuals who were in Beijing to receive awards for promoting military-civilian solidarity. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, expressed sincere greetings and warm congratulations to the award-receiving role models. Enditem

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-10/20/c\\_139454014.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-10/20/c_139454014.htm)

## **India expected to cooperate in handover of Chinese soldier who got lost in border area : Chinese military**

China Military Online, October 20, 2020

China hopes that India will hand over soon the Chinese soldier who got lost in China-India border areas on the evening of October 18 when helping local herdsmen retrieve a yak at their request, said Senior Colonel Zhang Shuili, spokesperson for the Western Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). The PLA border troops informed the Indian military right after the incident and hoped the Indian side would aid in search and rescue, and the Indian side promised to offer help and return the missing soldier timely after finding him, said the spokesperson. The latest information from the Indian side is that the lost Chinese soldier has been found and will be handed over to the Chinese side after receiving medical examination, said Snr. Col. Zhang.

"We hope that the Indian side will live up to its promise to hand over the missing Chinese soldier as soon as possible and implement the consensus reached by the two sides in the 7th round of Senior Commanders meeting, so as to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas," stressed Zhang.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/20/content\\_9921361.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/20/content_9921361.htm)

## **Indian side returns missing PLA soldier on Wednesday**

China Military Online, October 21, 2020

According to the relevant agreement between China and India, the Chinese PLA soldier, who went missing while helping local herdsmen find the lost yak near the China-India border on Sunday, has been returned to the Chinese border troops by the Indian army early on the morning of October 21, 2020.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/21/content\\_9922234.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/21/content_9922234.htm)

## **China boosts its attack range with launch of mysterious new hypersonic cruise missile, insiders say**

Kristin Huang and William Zheng  
South China Morning Post, October 19, 2020

Sources close to military and a social media video suggest PLA has weapon with greater speed and range than existing Changjian missiles. That could enable it to more effectively penetrate missile defence systems. A new airborne hypersonic cruise missile aimed at expanding the Chinese air force's attack capabilities has entered service, according to two sources close to the military. The weapon is an upgrade to the Changjian missile series and has greater range and speed than the others, the sources said. That would enable it to more effectively penetrate missile defence systems, they said. A video circulating on social network platforms since Saturday purportedly shows the new missile being carried by a Chinese H-6N bomber as it flies to an unidentified airbase. It resembles the shape of the DF-17, a hypersonic ballistic missile deployed under the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force that is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads.

Yet despite the similarity, sources close to the military said the new missile was not part of the Dongfeng series, which includes short-, medium- and intermediate-range and intercontinental ballistic missiles. A Beijing-based military source said the missile was an upgraded Changjian, designed with improved speed and efficiency to penetrate increasingly sophisticated defence systems around the world. "The Changjian-20 has been around for more than a decade. As other countries are racing to develop more and more advanced defence systems and other hypersonic weapons, it was time for the Chinese air force to have an upgraded missile to boost its attack range," the military source said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3106144/china-boosts-its-attack-range-launch-mysterious-new-hypersonic>

### **Chinese military beefs up coastal forces as it prepares for possible invasion of Taiwan**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 19, 2020

Beijing is stepping up the militarisation of its southeast coast as it prepares for a possible invasion of Taiwan, military observers and sources have said. The People's Liberation Army has been upgrading its missile bases, and one Beijing-based military source said it has deployed its most advanced hypersonic missile the DF-17 to the area. "The DF-17 hypersonic missile will gradually replace the old DF-11s and DF-15s that were deployed in the southeast region for decades," the source, who requested anonymity, because of the sensitivity of the topic. "The new missile has a longer range and is able to hit targets more accurately." The DF-17, which has a maximum range of 2,500km (1,550 miles), made its first public appearance on last year's October 1 National Day parade to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Beijing regards Taiwan as a breakaway province which it has vowed to take back, by force if necessary. Relations between Beijing and Taipei have deteriorated since Tsai Ing-wen from the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was elected as president in 2016 and

refused to accept the one-China principle.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3105953/chinese-military-beefs-coastal-forces-it-prepares-possible>

### **China's military moves targeting Taiwan are more about intimidation than invasion, analysts say**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, October 18, 2020

Strategy is seen as a tolerable one for Beijing while it focuses on bigger issues like overhauling its economy and managing competition with Washington. 'There is still no incentive for Beijing to provoke a war over Taiwan, since war would only make all of China's problems far worse'

China is pushing a new strategy to carefully step up military pressure on self-ruled Taiwan, but not to the point of provoking a real war, analysts said. Recent moves include military drills conducted by the People's Liberation Army near the Taiwan Strait, which included an island invasion drill during Taiwan's "Double Tenth" holiday and an assault landing drill that was aimed at "connecting the last 1km" to conquer an island. Last month Chinese fighters and bombers crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait entering the island's air defence identification zone almost on a daily basis afterwards, according to notices from Taiwanese national defence ministry.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3106001/chinas-military-moves-targeting-taiwan-are-more-about>

### **World worries about release of Fukushima nuclear water**

Xu Keyue

Global Times, October 18, 2020

The world public, especially those in Japan's neighbors such as China and South Korea, have expressed deep concerns over environmental pollution and human health, and opposition to the Japanese government's plan to dump radioactive water from the disabled Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean. Analysts said that Japan should think twice before making the decision as the move would have disastrous consequences for the marine environment and human health, which could lead to criticism by related international organizations, countermeasures by affected countries including cessation of imports of Japanese seafood, and harm to the country's image.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1203852.shtml>

### **China tests swarm of 'suicide drones' launched from a truck and helicopters**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 16, 2020

Insider says the small fixed-wing unmanned aircraft was commissioned under Beijing's military-civilian fusion strategy. He doesn't give details of the aircraft, but they appear to be similar to the country's first tactical attack drone, according to video footage. China has developed a new low-cost "suicide drone" that is despatched in a swarm to attack a target, according to mainland media reports. It was commissioned as part of the government's military-civilian fusion strategy, a People's Liberation Army insider who requested anonymity told the South China Morning Post. The policy seeks to boost military development with civilian and private sector support.

A swarm of the fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles was tested last month by the developer, a research institute under state-owned China Electronics Technology Group Corporation, according to a video released by the company. It shows kamikaze drones being launched from a light tactical vehicle and from helicopters. The company has carried out similar tests before. In November 2017 its research institute, the China Academy of Electronics and Information Technology, carried out what is believed to be the biggest such experiment, involving 200 of the small fixed-wing aircraft. In the video, multiple drones are seen being fired from a launcher mounted on the back of a modified version of the PLA's Dongfeng Mengshi light tactical vehicle, as well as at least two from helicopters.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3105670/china-tests-swarm-suicide-drones-launched-truck-and-helicopters>

### **Fu Cong reiterates China's stance on nuclear issues**

China Military Online, October 16, 2020

Fu Cong, director-general of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expounded China's stance on issues such as China's policy related to and development of nuclear power and the trilateral China-US-Russia arms control negotiation in an interview with Russian newspaper Kommersant on October 15, 2020.

### **About China's nuclear power policy**

Fu emphasized that China has always been committed to a nuclear policy of no first use of nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances, and has always kept its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for maintaining its national security. The policy will never change. China is not interested in becoming a nuclear superpower, and will not follow the old path of the United States and the Soviet Union's crazy nuclear arms race during the Cold War. China did not in the past and will not participate in the nuclear arms race in the future.

### **About nuclear power development**

Fu refuted the groundless accusations made by the United States on China's nuclear power buildup and pointed out that China's self-defense minimum nuclear deterrence strategy is a strategic choice based on China's own security needs and the nature of nuclear weapons as the ultimate deterrent. Guesses about the number of China's nuclear weapons is baseless. China's strengthening of the strategic capacity building aims to ensure the safety and reliability of its nuclear arsenal under the

new situation. It's expected that the outside world will treat it objectively and correctly. In fact, other nuclear-armed states are also modernizing their nuclear arsenals. The United States, for instance, even expects to spend \$1.2 trillion to upgrade its massive nuclear arsenal.

Fu said that nuclear transparency includes two aspects: transparency in policy and intention and in capacity and quantity. Transparency in capacity and quantity does not necessarily bring about mutual trust. The disclosure of nuclear power by a nuclear-armed country that has about 6,000 nuclear warheads and insists on the first use of nuclear weapons means deterrence rather than transparency. It will never make other countries feel secure. From the perspective of enhancing mutual trust and avoiding misjudgments, transparency in nuclear policy and intention is more realistic. China pursues a nuclear policy of no first use of nuclear weapons and not using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-weapon-free zones unconditionally. This transparency is of the most significance.

At present, the United States has been upgrading its huge nuclear arsenal, pursuing an offensive nuclear strategy while expanding the use of nuclear weapons, lowering the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, developing new "usable" nuclear warheads, vigorously developing anti-missile and outer space weapon systems, and threatening to deploy land-based intermediate-range missiles around China. These actions have severely harmed global strategic stability and impacted the survivability of China's nuclear forces. In this context, China must keep a moderate ambiguity about the scale of its nuclear forces to ensure the effectiveness of its nuclear deterrence.

### **About the so-called trilateral China-US-Russia arms control negotiation**

Fu pointed out that the United States has kept breaking treaties and withdrawing from international organizations, and proposed the so-called trilateral arms control negotiation, all of which is but to find a pretext to free its hands and gain absolute strategic supremacy. Given the huge gap between the nuclear arsenals of China and those of the United States and the Russian Federation, it is unfair, unreasonable, and infeasible to expect China to join in any trilateral arms control negotiation. China will never participate in such a negotiation. If the United States were willing to reduce its nuclear power to the level of China, China would be ready to engage in global nuclear disarmament negotiation. However, this may not happen in the foreseeable future. Fu said that China's rejection of the so-called trilateral arms control negotiation does not mean that China evades its responsibility for nuclear disarmament or refuses to participate in the global nuclear disarmament process.

China has been actively committed to global nuclear disarmament efforts and made significant contributions to the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), actively supporting the development of the Treaty's verification mechanism, and always abiding by its commitment to a "moratorium" on nuclear testing. Meanwhile, China has played a key role in activating the dialogue mechanism of the five nuclear-weapon states while actively pushing forward the conclusion of an international legal instrument on preventing the weaponization of and arms race in outer space through negotiations and promoting the provision of security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states.

China is ready to engage in meaningful dialogue on the issues related to strategic stability with all

parties under the framework of the United Nations, the Conference on Disarmament and the P5 (five permanent members of the UN Security Council), and is willing to conduct bilateral dialogue on strategic security with all parties based on mutual respect, but we will brook no coercion or blackmail, stressed Fu.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/16/content\\_9919896.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/16/content_9919896.htm)

### **PLA Daily: Focus on war preparedness and combat capabilities**

China Military Online, October 15, 2020

The army is born with war, and military forces are trained for war. Combat readiness is always the core function and main responsibility of the people's army. "Focus on war preparedness and combat capabilities, and maintain a high level of readiness." President Xi's important speech when inspecting the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy Marine Corps fully affirmed the development and task-completion since the establishment of the Marine Corps. His speech put forward precise requirements for war preparedness and established clear guidance for combat capabilities.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the entire armed forces have exerted great efforts in combat readiness, innovating military strategies and combat guidance, building a combat system under the new system, strengthening actual combat training, carrying out a series of major military operations, and have made significant contributions to safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests. The world is experiencing profound shifts unseen in a century. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the evolution of major changes. The international environment has become increasingly complex, economic globalization has encountered a countercurrent, and China's security situation has become more uncertain and unstable.

"If you want to be successful in the face of the enemy, you should prepare for it in advance." Only when the whole military correctly understand and grasp the general trend of China's security and development, strengthen the awareness of the urgency, crisis, and combat, put all their minds and energy on war preparedness and combat capabilities, spare no effort in preparing for war and sharpening the edge of their combat capabilities, temper good qualities, and improve the level of actual combat, can they build themselves into an elite force that can fight and win in battles and wars.

"A strong country is defined by strong military that can win." At present, the PLA is in a critical period of deepening reform and transformation. New command system, new force composition, new scale and structure, new combat thinking, etc. have brought not only great opportunities to strengthen training and preparations comprehensively, but also presented severe challenges. The whole military must stick to combat-oriented training and strengthen mission-oriented training tailored to the specific needs and force-on-force training with a higher and stricter level. We must promote innovations in combat theory, training models, and task organization to improve training levels and actual combat capabilities. We must strengthen the integration of subordinate combat forces, combat units, and combat elements, enhance coordination with other services and arms,

straighten out related command and support relationships, and deeply integrate into the joint combat system. We must make full use of the favorable conditions for reform, innovate training concepts and models, optimize training methods and tactics, strengthen the construction of training norms and training standards, enhance combat effectiveness, and truly utilize the advantages of the new system and new structure, drive the overall improvement of combat readiness, and earnestly fulfill the mission and tasks assigned by the Party and the people in the new era.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/15/content\\_9919281.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/15/content_9919281.htm)

### **Chinese navy fleet returns from escort mission**

Chinese Military Online, October 15, 2020

A Chinese navy flotilla returned to the port city of Zhoushan in east China's Zhejiang Province Wednesday after completing its mission of escorting civilian vessels in the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia. The 35th escort squad of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, comprising the guided-missile destroyer Taiyuan, the missile frigate Jingzhou and the supply ship Chaohu, escorted 49 Chinese and foreign ships during the mission. The fleet set sail from Zhoushan on April 28.

The escort squad travelled over 100,000 nautical miles during its 170-day voyage without reaching a port for rest, setting a new record for the PLA Navy fleet for continuous operation time at sea. China began dispatching naval ships to carry out vessel protection operations in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia in December 2008.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/15/content\\_9918684.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/15/content_9918684.htm)

### **China's marine corps on notice to boost combat strength, analyst says**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 15, 2020

China's marine corps will have more training in joint operations to bolster combat strength as the country's security risks increase at home and abroad, according to military analysts. The assessment came after Chinese President Xi Jinping told troops in the southern city of Chaozhou on Tuesday that the corps needed to strengthen its goals to fit in with the People's Liberation Army's modernisation drive. "The marines should come up with road maps with the goals, direction, path and focus of team building," Xi told senior officers.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3105540/chinas-marine-corps-notice-boost-combat-strength-analyst-says>

### **China has expanded the shipyard where its nuclear submarines are built, satellite imagery shows**

Sarah Zheng



South China Morning Post, October 15, 2020

New satellite analysis has found that China has expanded its capacity for building nuclear-powered submarines at one of its largest shipyards. The US Naval Institute (USNI) news site reported this week that commercial satellite imagery has revealed work on a new construction hall at the Bohai shipyard – a major site for China’s nuclear submarine programme – that could make room for two additional submarines to be built simultaneously. The latest hall resembles another one built there in 2015, which is believed to be intended for construction of a new generation of nuclear submarines, according to the report. This could mean the shipyard will have capacity for four or five submarines in the sheds at one time, including room for two more at the new hall and potentially another one at a third, older construction hall.

A rare at-sea look at China’s aircraft carrier the Liaoning and fighter jet training Chinese state media have previously said that the Bohai shipyard, located at the Huludao port off the coast of northeastern Liaoning province, was the site where China constructed its Type 096 nuclear ballistic missile submarine and the Type 095 nuclear attack submarine. The USNI report said there were three new classes of submarine that may be built at Bohai, the Type 095, Type 096, and the upgraded Type 093B nuclear-powered attack submarine, which has an increased capacity for cruise missiles. It added that details of the new construction hall at the shipyard were still not fully clear and no new submarines had yet been seen, so it was still possible that it could be designated for some other purpose.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3105699/china-has-expanded-shipyard-where-its-nuclear-submarines-are>