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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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Atlantic Council publishes landmark strategy paper on China's global rise under Xi Jinping
Atlantic Council, January 28, 2021

The focus of the paper is China's leader and his behavior. "The single most important challenge facing the United States in the twenty-first century is the rise of an increasingly authoritarian China under President and General Secretary Xi Jinping," it says. "US strategy must remain laser-focused on Xi, his inner circle, and the Chinese political context in which they rule. Changing their decision-making will require understanding, operating within, and changing their political and strategic paradigm. All US policy aimed at altering China's behavior should revolve around this fact, or it is likely to prove ineffectual."

The article proposes five US red lines for dealing with China: nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons actions by China against the United States or its allies; a military attack against Taiwan; military action against Japanese forces; major hostile Chinese action in the South China Sea; and any Chinese attack against the sovereign territory or military assets of US treaty allies. "As China rapidly increases its political and economic reach during this period of historic geopolitical crisis, this moment calls for an urgent, thorough understanding of its strategy and power structure," said Frederick Kempe, Atlantic Council president and CEO. "The Atlantic Council chose to publish this exceptional paper because it offers unparalleled insights that can guide decision-makers towards focused policies effective at countering China's authoritarian model. This will be the most acute challenge of our time, and this perspective requires full attention from our leaders."

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/news/press-releases/atlantic-council-publishes-landmark-strategy-paper-on-chinas-global-rise-under-xi-jinping/>

Seeking "Taiwan independence" means nothing but war: Defense Spokesperson
China Military Online, January 28, 2021

"Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, and the Taiwan question is China's internal affair, which allows no interference from the outside," Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense (MND), said in a monthly regular press conference on Thursday. According to recent media reports, Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authority recently claimed to deepen ties with the US. At the same time, Taiwan's department for defense affairs has been repeatedly hyping up the so-called military aircraft from the mainland entering Taiwan's "southwest air defense identification zone".

In response, Wu reiterated that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, and the Taiwan question is China's internal affair, which allows no interference from the outside. "The military activities carried out by the Chinese PLA in the Taiwan Strait are necessary actions in response to the current security situation across the Taiwan Strait," Wu said, adding that "it is also a solemn response to the interference of external forces and the provocations by 'Taiwan independence' forces." He pointed out that in the long history of the Chinese nation, a handful of "Taiwan independence" separatists' activities are just like a bubble, which will not make any wave. The Chinese PLA will take all necessary measures to resolutely defeat any form of attempts by the "Taiwan independence" separatists, and firmly defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity, he

noted. Wu seriously warns those "Taiwan independence" forces that those who play with fire will set themselves on fire, and seeking "Taiwan independence" means nothing but war.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-01/28/content_9976420.htm

To promote China-DPRK military exchanges at all levels: Defense spokesperson

China Military Online, January 28, 2021

"Mil-to-mil relations play an important role in China-DPRK relationship. China will continue to conduct friendly exchanges between the two militaries at all levels," said Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense (MND), at a regular press conference in Beijing. According to media reports, Kim Jong Un, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), said in his report to the eighth party congress of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) that the DPRK prioritizes the development of the special relationship with China, which has a long historical foundation, and the five meetings between the top leaders of the two countries provide a reliable guarantee for deepening bilateral ties. In addition, Kim Jong Un also said that the DPRK will deal with the US in the principle of "responding to aggressiveness with aggressiveness, responding to kindness with kindness".

Senior Colonel Wu was asked during the press conference to brief on the current development of mil-to-mil relationship between China and the DPRK and make comment on Kim Jong Un's remarks. Wu said that China and the DPRK are friendly neighbors linked by mountains and rivers. In recent years, the top leaders of the two parties and two countries have maintained close exchanges and forged profound friendship, which has injected strong impetus into the development of bilateral relations and opened a new chapter of China-DPRK friendship.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-01/28/content_9976406.htm

China's new KJ-600 surveillance aircraft completes latest test flight

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, January 28, 2021

China put its new carrier-based early warning aircraft through its paces again on Wednesday, a military source said, after images of the plane were shared online. "The [test] flight took place early on Wednesday morning in Xian," said the People's Liberation Army insider. "It was another regular test before the plane enters service." Speaking on condition of anonymity as he is not authorized to speak to the media, the source confirmed that the photographs shared on social media were of the KJ-600, China's first domestically developed early warning plane, which is in its final stages of development.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3119636/chinas-new-kj-600-surveillance-aircraft-completes-latest-test>

To contain china, mission impossible: Defense spokesperson

China Military Online, January 28, 2021

The mil-to-mil relations between China and the US have come to a new starting point, and China hopes the new US administration will work with the Chinese side to promote the healthy and steady development of bilateral ties, said Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense (MND), at a regular press conference on Thursday, when asked to comment on China-US mil-to-mil relationship during the Trump administration and the future development of bilateral military relations during the Biden administration.

Snr. Col. Wu said that during the Trump administration, the China-US relationship encountered serious difficulties, and the mil-to-mil relations also faced a lot of risks and challenges. "Facts have proved that to contain China is a mission impossible and will only end up shooting oneself in the foot," Wu said. China hopes the US side will work with China towards the same goal with the same professionalism, properly address China's concerns in the fields of mil-to-mil relations, intensify communication, manage and control risks, avoid crisis, and push the US-China mil-to-mil relations forward along the right track, said Wu.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-01/28/content_9976397.htm

Chinese military deploys ballistic missile's launchers for training

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, January 26, 2021

China has deployed a large number of launchers for its new advanced intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) to the country's eastern and western areas for intensive training, as it and the United States continue their posturing over the disputed South China Sea. Satellite images by Maxar Technologies showed the Chinese military had deployed many DF-26 IRBM launchers to a training site in Shandong province in the east, according to a report by the Washington-based Federation of American Scientists (FAS) on Thursday, adding it was the first time it had seen the DF-26 operating in the area. Last week, Andrei Chang, editor-in-chief of the Canada-based Kanwa Defence Review, said in a YouTube video that China's Rocket Force had deployed about 16 launchers for the DF-26 IRBM to its Qingzhou base in Shandong and another in Korla, in the far-western Xinjiang region.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3119203/south-china-sea-chinese-military-deploys-ballistic-missiles>

The JL-3: the new missile 'raising the cost' of a US fight with China

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, January 25, 2021

The submarine-launched weapon has a much greater range than previous versions and could put the PLA within striking distance of the continental USA, a report says. The missiles are an essential

element in the Chinese military's ability to respond to an attack, analyst says

It has already been tested three times but so far China is saying nothing. The JL-3, the country's most advanced submarine-launched long-range missile, is projected to be fully integrated with the PLA's next generation of submarines in 2025, but China has not officially confirmed that it is even under development. Nevertheless, it is still a threat and one of a number of missiles that could put the People's Liberation Army within striking distance of the continental United States, according to an American military report.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3118960/jl-3-new-missile-raising-cost-us-fight-china>

Joint Press Release of the 9th Round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting

China Military Online, January 25, 2021

On January 24, the 9th round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting was held on the Chinese side of the Moldo-Chushul border meeting point. The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of China-India border areas.

The two sides agreed that this round of meeting was positive, practical and constructive, which further enhanced mutual trust and understanding. The two sides agreed to push for an early disengagement of the frontline troops. They also agreed to follow the important consensus of their state leaders, maintain the good momentum of dialogue and negotiation, and hold the 10th round of the Corps Commander Level Meeting at an early date to jointly advance de-escalation. The two sides agreed to continue their effective efforts in ensuring the restraint of the frontline troops, stabilize and control the situation along the LAC in the Western Sector of the China-India border, and jointly maintain peace and tranquility.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-01/25/content_9974188.htm

China's military 'prepares for war' with joint operations, cross-training

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, January 24, 2021

After five years of modernisation and restructuring command chains, People's Liberation Army focuses on cross-service combat to maximise its fighting power. Improving joint operation capabilities necessary for the most likely combat scenarios for the PLA, such as a campaign against Taiwan, retired colonel says

China's military is increasing its use of joint operations and officer cross-training to boost its readiness for war, according to insiders quoted in a newspaper report.

A five-year overhaul of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which ended last year, saw the restructuring of the command chain to make cross-service combat a basic approach for future

operations. To help develop commanders and staff for joint operations, the PLA began its 2021 training programme by deploying army officers on naval vessels and seconding air force officers to the army's rocket units, PLA Daily reported.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3118969/chinas-military-prepares-war-joint-operations-cross-training>

China adopts coastguard law, safeguarding sovereignty in Diaoyu Islands

Wang Qi and Xing Xiaojing

Global Times, January 23, 2021

Diaoyu Islands in the E China Sea and its affiliated islands have always been China's inherent territory. China passed its coastguard legislation on Friday, and experts said China will safeguard sovereignty regarding the dispute with Japan over the Diaoyu Islands. The 25th session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) concluded on Friday afternoon in Beijing, and adopted the coastguard law. The law came one day after senior Japanese and US officials discussed their alliance and the Japan-US security treaty's Article 5, which assures the US defense obligations apply to the Diaoyu Islands.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202101/1213649.shtml>

Taiwan reports large incursion by Chinese air force

Ben Blanchard

Reuters, January 23, 2021

Eight Chinese bomber planes and four fighter jets entered the southwestern corner of Taiwan's air defence identification zone on Saturday, and Taiwan's air force deployed missiles to "monitor" the incursion, the island's defence ministry said. China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, has conducted almost daily flights over the waters between the southern part of Taiwan and the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands in the South China Sea in recent months. However, they have generally consisted of just one or two reconnaissance aircraft.

The presence of so many Chinese combat aircraft on this mission - Taiwan said it was made up of eight nuclear-capable H-6K bombers and four J-16 fighter jets - was unusual. A map provided by Taiwan's defence ministry showed that the Chinese aircraft, including a Y-8 anti-submarine aircraft, flew over the same waters where the most recent Chinese missions have been taking place near the Pratas Islands, though still well away from mainland Taiwan. Taiwan's air force warned away the Chinese aircraft and deployed missiles to monitor them, the ministry said, using standard wording for how it responds to such activities.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-taiwan-china-security-idUSKBN29S0BK>

China to boost pay for PLA forces after years of sweeping reforms

Minnie Chan
South China Morning Post, January 23, 2021

Bumper 40 per cent wage rise on its way, with border forces and promising young officers set for biggest slice. But concerns remain about continuing lack of legal underpinning for all matters relating to military pay and conditions. China's servicemen and women will get a significant pay rise later this year, according to three independent sources close to the world's largest military force.

The 40 per cent increase comes hard on the heels of a number of sweeping reforms intended to transform the bloated People's Liberation Army into a more modern, nimble fighting force. The pay boost aims to attract and retain talent, while also encouraging promising young officers to have faith in the ongoing changes. "I am so happy as I am going to receive an additional income of up to 7,000 yuan (US\$1,000) after the pay rise, or a 40 per cent increase, taking my monthly income to more than 20,000 yuan," said a Beijing-based colonel, who requested anonymity.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3118636/china-boost-pay-pla-forces-after-years-sweeping-reforms>

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Press Conference China Military Online, January 22, 2021

Global Times: Some reports citing sources said on January 21 that President Biden is proposing to Russia a five-year extension of the New START treaty. Do you have a comment?

Hua Chunying: Extending the New START treaty by the United States and Russia will be conducive to safeguarding global strategic stability and international peace and security. We hope the U.S. side will continue to work with Russia in the same direction to extend the treaty, and on that basis, to further slash its nuclear arsenal, fulfill its special and primary responsibility in nuclear disarmament, and create enabling conditions for the ultimate comprehensive and complete nuclear disarmament.

Associated Press of Pakistan: Also a question about vaccine. According to reports, the Chinese government has promised to provide half a million doses of coronavirus vaccines to Pakistan by the end of this month. Do you have some detail to share with us?

Hua Chunying: Pakistan is China's all-weather strategic cooperative partner. The two sides have a fine tradition of mutual support and assistance. One can always count on a ready helping hand from the other in times of need. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China and Pakistan have been working together to overcome difficulties. In order to support our brothers and sisters in Pakistan, the Chinese government has decided to provide a batch of vaccines as aid and will actively coordinate with the relevant Chinese enterprise to speed up export of vaccines to Pakistan. State Councilor Wang Yi shared this decision of the Chinese government with Pakistani Foreign Minister Qureshi yesterday during their phone call. I also want to add that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan. As the two foreign

ministers said in the phone call, our time-tested rock solid friendship has become the most valuable strategic asset to both sides. No matter how the international landscape evolves, China-Pakistan friendly cooperation will continue moving forward. China is ready to take the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties as an opportunity to further broaden, elevate and deepen strategic cooperation with Pakistan, and jointly build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

NHK: The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has entered into force. China is a nuclear weapon state. Do you have any comment?

Hua Chunying: China understands the wishes and appeals of non-nuclear weapon states in advancing nuclear disarmament. From the very day China successfully tested a nuclear weapon, it has been an advocate for the comprehensive prohibition and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. We are committed to not first using nuclear weapons at any time or under any circumstances and pledge unconditionally not to use or threat to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states or nuclear-weapon-free zones. China's nuclear forces are always kept at the minimum level required to safeguard national security. This is the Chinese government's consistent basic policy. Regarding the ultimate goal of comprehensive and complete elimination of nuclear weapons, China's position is not inconsistent with the Treaty. Indeed, we have contributed through concrete actions to safeguarding global strategic stability and advancing the international arms control and disarmament process.

At the same time, it is China's view that nuclear disarmament cannot lose sight of the reality of the international security landscape. Progress should be sought step by step under the principle of maintaining global strategic stability and undiminished security for all. The process must be consensus-based and stay within the framework of the existing international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The Treaty runs counter to the above-mentioned principle and is detrimental to the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime with the NPT as a cornerstone. China does not recognize and has no intention to sign or ratify it. We stress that the Treaty does not reflect or constitute customary international law and has no binding force on non-signatories.

China will continue to participate in discussions of nuclear disarmament and relevant issues within such frameworks as the UNGA First Committee, Conference on Disarmament, the NPT review process, and the cooperation mechanism of the five nuclear-weapon states, strive to advance the nuclear disarmament process in a rational, practical and effective manner, and work relentlessly for a world free of nuclear weapons. We stand ready to maintain constructive cooperation with non-nuclear weapon states over this.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1847956.shtml

China gears up for 2021 military recruitment

Xinhua, January 21, 2021

A virtual conference was convened in Beijing Thursday to prepare for China's military recruitment this year. The recruitment will be held in two rounds, one slated to start on Feb. 20 and end on

March 31, while the other scheduled between Aug. 15 and Sept. 30, according to a statement issued after the conference. The recruitment drive is mainly targeted at college students, while other youths including eligible vocational school graduates will also be recruited, the statement noted. The meeting stressed focusing on combat capabilities and called for strict epidemic prevention and control measures in the recruitment process.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-01/21/c_139686561.htm

China to field more nuclear weapons that can target the United States, says report

Gabriel Dominguez

Janes, January 20, 2021

China's missile force is expanding, with the number of nuclear warheads capable of reaching the United States on intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) potentially increasing to "well over 200" within the next five years, according to a report by the US Air Force's National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC). Published on 11 January 2021, NASIC's '2020 Ballistic and Cruise Missile Threat' report says that China, which "continues to have the most active and diverse ballistic missile development programme in the world", has been adding the 11,000+ km-range, single warhead DF-31A (US Department of Defense designation CSS-10 Mod 2) and the 12,000+ km-range DF-5B (CSS-4 Mod 3) to the inventory of the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force (PLARF), with the silo-based DF-5B being China's first ICBM with multiple independently-targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs).

Moreover, NASIC changed its designation for the DF-41 MIRV-capable, road-mobile ICBM from CSS-X-20 to CSS-20, indicating that it considers development of the weapon has been completed. The DF-41 was first displayed at a military parade held at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 1 October 2019. NASIC provided no range estimate for the three-stage, solid-fuelled missile but the DF-41 is believed to have a comparable range to the older liquid-fuelled DF-5B ICBM. The DF-41's mobility, however, makes it less vulnerable to elimination in a first strike than the silo-based DF-5 missile.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/china-to-field-more-nuclear-weapons-that-can-target-the-united-states-says-report>

China's space tracking ship completes satellite launch monitoring

Xinhua, January 20, 2021

China's space tracking ship Yuanwang-5 completed its mission in the Pacific Ocean to monitor and ensure the launch of the Tiantong 1-03 satellite on Wednesday. China successfully launched the mobile telecommunication satellite at 12:25 a.m. (Beijing Time) on Wednesday. The satellite entered its planned orbit. As the only maritime monitoring site for the launch, Yuanwang-5 was responsible for the rocket measurement and satellite monitoring. It also conducted the data calculation and space-ground information exchange. The operation of the shipborne measurement and control system remained stable in rough seas, ensuring the smooth execution of key stages of

the launch. China's Yuanwang fleet will conduct intensive and challenging missions in 2021. Yuanwang-5 alone will conduct around 10 maritime missions with more than 200 days of offshore operations.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-01/20/content_9971324.htm

China provides minesweeping equipment for Cambodia

Mao Pengfei

China Military Online, January 20, 2021

A new batch of minesweeping equipment donated by China to Cambodia arrived in Phnom Penh on January 19, 2021. Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian and first Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) Ly Thuch attended the handover ceremony. Wang said that China and Cambodia are part of a community of shared future with strategic significance. China has always been concerned about Cambodia's minesweeping cause and the safety of the Cambodian people, and committed to providing minesweeping assistance to Cambodia through material donations and personnel training. Wang hopes that the aid supplies could help Cambodia speed up minesweeping work and achieve the goal of eliminating all types of mines and explosive remnants of war by 2025.

Ly Thuch introduced the latest situation of Cambodia's minesweeping work. He extended his profound gratitude to China for providing the assistance and said that the Chinese friends had made important contributions to Cambodia's mine clearance. Cambodian agencies will make full use of those aid materials to achieve the goal as planned. Cambodia is one of the most landmine-affected countries in the world. Since 1999, China has provided minesweeping assistance to Cambodia many times through training, donating funds, providing equipment, and sending experts for on-site instructions. This time, the donation includes pick-up trucks, drones, landmine detectors, and demining personal protective equipment, with a total value of eight million yuan (nearly \$1.2 million).

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-01/20/content_9971257.htm

China holds joint conference on national conscription work

An Puzhong and Zhang Xiaoyu

China Military Online, January 19, 2021

The first plenum of the inter-departmental joint conference on national conscription work was held in Beijing on January 18. State Councilor and Defense Minister General Wei Fenghe, also a member of the Central Military Commission (CMC), attended the meeting and delivered a speech. This conference was tasked to study and review the work rules of the inter-departmental joint conference mechanism and to promote China's reform for biannual conscription and demobilization work.

It is learned that the inter-departmental joint conference on national conscription work comprises of 14 departments, including the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), five departments under the CMC, etc., with the CMC's Department of National Defense Mobilization taking the lead. The joint conference is responsible for implementing related major decisions and deployments concerning the military conscription, and coordinating the implementation of important matters involving multiple departments. The conference doesn't have a dedicated office, with the Recruitment Office under China's Ministry of National Defense undertaking its organization, liaison, coordination, and other daily work and convening meetings at proper times as needed.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-01/19/content_9970492.htm