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# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

An Initiative by Indian Pugwash Society and Centre for Nuclear Issues and Arms Control  
(MP - IDSA)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



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## **Ex-boss of arms company Norinco placed under investigation**

Laura Zhou

South China Morning Post, April 04, 2021

Yin Jiaxu accused of ‘serious violations of discipline and the law’, anti-corruption watchdog says

Yin was Communist Party chief and chairman of China North Industries Group Corp until his retirement in 2018. The former head of one of China’s largest weapons manufacturers is under investigation for alleged corruption offences, according to the Communist Party’s anti-corruption watchdog. Yin Jiaxu, who was Communist Party chief and chairman of China North Industries Group Corporation (Norinco) until his retirement in 2018, is being investigated for “serious violations of discipline and the law”, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) said on Sunday, without elaborating on his alleged wrongdoings. Yin, 65, is the latest high-level official from the defence industry to be snared by President Xi Jinping’s sweeping anti-corruption campaign that has seen more than 1.3 million officials investigated since 2012.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3128278/corruption-china-ex-boss-arms-company-norinco-placed-under>

## **China to host four airshows and equipment expos in 2021**

China Military Online, April 02, 2021

Several aviation and aerospace equipment expositions have recently announced their opening date, including the China International Helicopter Expo and the Aviation Expo China. Besides, the Airshow China and the Guangdong International Marine Equipment Expo that were put on hold last year due to the pandemic are also rescheduled for this year. According to its official website, the 6th China International Helicopter Expo will be held at the Industry Base of the AVIC Helicopter in the Free Trade Zone of Tianjin Port (Airport Economic Zone) of Tianjin’s Binhai New Area from September 9 to 12. It is learned that the biennial China Helicopter Expo is the only international helicopter expo in China that’s approved by the State Council featuring aerobatic performance. At the 5th expo held two years ago, the China-made Z-20 helicopter cast a brilliant figure during the static exhibition, while the Z-10 armored helicopters presented an extraordinary aerobatic performance for the audience.

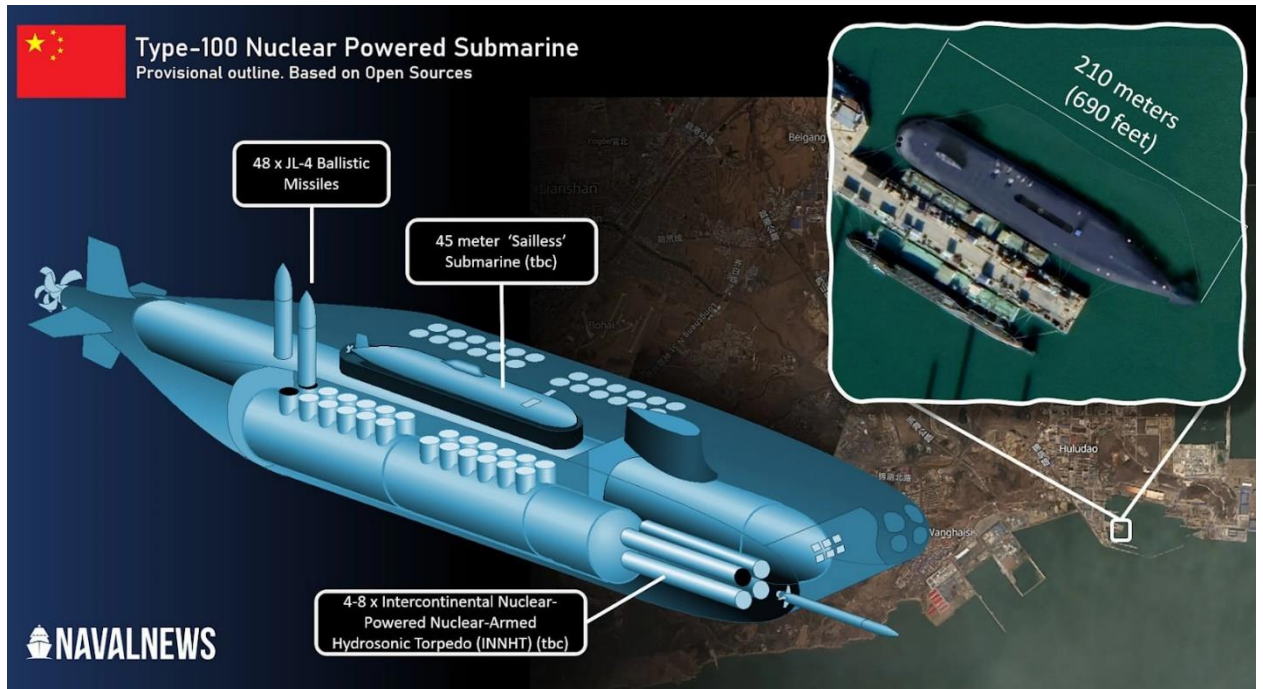
The Aviation Expo China is also held in odd-number years. It is previously reported that after being held 18 times through 36 years, the 19th expo will be relocated to Shanghai and renamed Shanghai Airshow, to be held at Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport for the first time from September 15 to 19 this year. It is learned that the new show will focus on the commercial aviation and space industry chain with static outdoor exhibitions of commercial aircraft and spacecraft.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-04/02/content\\_10015840.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-04/02/content_10015840.htm)

## **China’s ‘god of submarines’ just an April Fool’s Day joke**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, April 02, 2021



Military website provokes consternation with spoof story of giant submarine armed with 48 ballistic missiles. After Global Times debunks the story, Naval News confirms it was made up. A military website launched an April Fool's Day joke with a spoof report saying China had developed a super submarine capable of carrying "ginormous" nuclear-powered torpedoes.

After the report sparked wide and attention and mockery, including a detailed debunking by nationalist tabloid Global Times, the Naval News website carried a follow-up story confirming the news was a prank.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3128160/chinas-god-submarines-just-april-fools-day-joke>

### **Chinese submariners set new world record in fast buoyancy ascent escape**

China Military Online, April 02, 2021

Three submariners from the Special Medical Center of the PLA Naval Medical University ascended 194.6 meters to the water surface within 90 seconds in a fast buoyancy ascent escape experiment, breaking the previous world record of 190.6 meters created by the British Navy.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-04/02/content\\_10015866.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-04/02/content_10015866.htm)

### **China sends soldiers to Russia for snowy mountain challenge**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, April 01, 2021

A team of 11 is heading to the Western Sayan range for a gruelling series of exercises

including avalanche rescue skills. Analyst says PLA will be learning from Russian military practice in extreme conditions. China is sending a group of soldiers to take part in a military competition in Russia that will test their winter skills in gruelling mountain conditions. According to China's defence ministry, 11 soldiers from the Harbin-based 78th Group Army unit under Northern Theatre Command will travel to Russia on Friday to take part in a 50km (31-mile) trek through the Western Sayan mountain range. Challenges will include locating someone caught in an avalanche, fixed rope descent and rescue, as well as shooting and grenade exercises.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3127770/china-sends-soldiers-russia-snowy-mountain-challenge>

### **China's FAST telescope opens to global scientists**

Xinhua, March 31, 2021

China's Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), the world's largest filled-aperture and most sensitive radio telescope, has officially opened to the world starting Wednesday. Hand-painting shows China's Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) at night in southwest China's Guizhou Province. Experts expect the gigantic telescope to bolster global astronomical research and find answers to some of the biggest unknowns in modern astrophysics and cosmology. Astronomers globally can submit their observation applications for evaluation till May 15 and the results will be announced on July 20, according to a statement by the National Astronomical Observatories (NAO) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Observations by overseas scientists will begin in August.

About 10 percent of FAST's observation time in the first year, roughly 450 hours, is expected to be allocated to foreign scientists, said Li Di, chief scientist of the telescope and a researcher with the NAO. Many global astronomers have been looking forward to the opening of FAST following the collapse of the 305-meter vast telescope at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico last December. The competition for grabbing observation time is set to be fierce, Li said. Wu Xiangping, an academician with the CAS and director of FAST's science committee, said the applications submitted by domestic and overseas scientists will be evaluated by top international experts in their respective fields to ensure that the approved applications are in line with scientific frontiers. The competition for observation time among Chinese scientists has already been very intense. During its trial run in 2019, FAST planned to operate for 360 hours but ended up receiving more than 2,000 hours of observation applications. In 2020, only about 30 percent of applications were approved.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-03/31/c\\_139850128.htm#:~:text=GUIYANG%2C%20March%2031%20\(Xinhua\),to%20the%20world%20starting%20Wednesday.&text=The%20competition%20for%20observation%20time,has%20already%20been%20very%20intense.](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-03/31/c_139850128.htm#:~:text=GUIYANG%2C%20March%2031%20(Xinhua),to%20the%20world%20starting%20Wednesday.&text=The%20competition%20for%20observation%20time,has%20already%20been%20very%20intense.)

### **China issues strong warning to Japan over 'negative moves' in East China Sea dispute**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, March 31, 2021

Sino-Japanese relations have sunk since Beijing introduced a controversial coastguard law and US-Japan defence talks marked a shift in regional geopolitics. Beijing's strong commentary on disputed Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands came a day after the defence ministries of both countries held a virtual meeting. China's defence ministry has urged Japan to stop making provocative moves and refrain from attacking China over disputed uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

"China's defence department stressed the fact that the Diaoyu Islands and its affiliated islets are all China's inherent territory," defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian said. "Japan should stop all provocative moves involving the Diaoyu problem ... The Chinese side also expressed strong dissatisfaction and serious concern over its recent series of negative moves against China and asked Japan to abide by international relations criteria, stop smearing China and take practical actions to maintain China-Japan relations."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3127813/china-issues-strong-warning-japan-over-negative-moves-east>

### **China, Japan hold defense consultation: Defense Spokesperson**

China Military Online, March 31, 2021

The defense authorities of China and Japan held the third annual meeting of maritime and air liaison mechanism and the fifth round of working-level consultation on defense affairs via video link on March 29. The two sides exchanged views on such topics as maritime and aerial security policies, regional security situation, operation of the maritime and air liaison mechanism, and defense exchanges. At the meeting, the Chinese side reiterated that the Diaoyu Island and its affiliated islands are China's inherent territory, no matter what Japan says or does, it cannot change the fact. The Chinese side also urged the Japanese side to stop provoking China on the Diaoyu Island issue, let alone talking black into white and making groundless accusations against China.

Moreover, the Chinese side expressed strong dissatisfaction with and grave concern over a series of Japan's negative acts against China, asking the Japanese side to abide by the basic norms governing international relations, stop smearing China, and safeguard the overall interests of China-Japan relations with concrete actions. The Chinese side also stressed that the formulation of the Coast Guard Law is a normal legislation move taken by China, which conforms with the international law and international norms.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/31/content\\_10015198.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/31/content_10015198.htm)

### **Chinese envoy to UN proposes to realize non-proliferation through multilateralism**

China Military Online, March 31, 2021

Ambassador Geng Shuang, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the UN, made remarks on March 30 at a video conference of the UN Security Council reviewing the work of the 1540 Committee, calling for realizing the non-proliferation targets through upholding multilateralism. Geng Shuang noted that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their carriers concerns international peace and security and poses a common challenge to the international community. Resolution 1540 passed in 2004 is the first

resolution on non-proliferation adopted by the Security Council and makes an important component of the international non-proliferation regime. Given the current global security situation, especially new dynamics in the non-proliferation field, Geng Shuang proposed four points on the non-proliferation efforts of international community.

First, efforts should be made to meet non-proliferation targets through multilateralism. Non-proliferation is a global challenge that should be resolved through multilateral cooperation under the UN's leadership and guidance. All parties should uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, accommodate the reasonable concerns of all countries, eliminate factors of proliferation and seek common security. The international community must intensify the UN-centered collective security mechanism, preserve the Security Council's authority, and persist in addressing non-proliferation through political and diplomatic means and through dialogue and consultation.

Second, the international non-proliferation regime should be consolidated. The international community must further enhance the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention, ensure their comprehensive, effective and balanced implementation, and intensify relevant treaties and mechanisms.

Third, close attention must be paid to the risk of proliferation brought by emerging technologies. Emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, 3D printing, genome editing, and synthetic biology, are likely to be applied to the proliferation of WMD and the carriers. All countries must tighten government supervision and carry out international cooperation to prevent non-state actors from abusing these technologies for proliferation. In the meantime, efforts to meet non-proliferation targets should not be made at the price of sacrificing technological progress. Fourth, a comprehensive review should be made to reinforce the execution of Resolution 1540.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/31/content\\_10014637.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/31/content_10014637.htm)

### **PLA commissions new-type robot for bomb disposal**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, March 31, 2021

A new robot type has entered service, as it demonstrated its capacity in a recent bomb disposal exercise by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). The commissioning of such a device is an example of the PLA's modernization as machines have replaced humans in dangerous missions and increased combat efficiency, analysts said on Wednesday.

An engineer and nuclear, biological and chemical defense brigade under the PLA 71st Group Army recently held a human-robot integration tactical training in East China's Anhui Province, in which the new bomb disposal robot made its debut, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Tuesday. Remotely controlled by an operator, the robot crossed a contaminated zone, climbed over steep slopes of nearly 40 degrees and used water cannons to dispose of explosives, CCTV reported. The flexible robot is equipped with six cameras that can monitor the battlefield environment in all directions, can turn 360 degrees on the spot and overcome obstacles in complicated environments like mountains and snow fields, the report said, noting that it is up for missions like detecting, locating, transferring and

defusing explosives.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202103/1219983.shtml>

### **New policies to promote transformation of China's defense technologies**

China Military Online, March 30, 2021

The 6th China's Manufacturing Power Forum themed "Stabilize manufacturing, boost real economy, break new grounds" kicked off in Baoding, central China's Hebei province on March 28. Wu Yanhua, deputy director of the State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND), revealed at the forum that the SASTIND is working with relevant Party, government and military departments to introduce relevant policies soon to promote the transformation of scientific and technological achievements for national defense, so as to unleash the enormous vitality of "conversion of military industry to civilian production".

The upcoming policies will mainly cover six aspects. It is mentioned that the ownership of, and the rights to use, dispose of and profit from the national defense achievements will be separated, while the state retains the ownership. And also the policies will require the confidential departments to promote the declassification of defense-related scientific and technological achievements in the near future, so that the highly-valued achievements can be brought to the market.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/30/content\\_10013873.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/30/content_10013873.htm)

### **PLA's 4th improved Type 052D destroyer makes maiden appearance in maritime exercise**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, March 30, 2021

The Suzhou (Hull 132), an improved version of the Type 052D guided missile destroyer attached to a destroyer taskforce affiliated with the People's Liberation Army Eastern Theater Command Navy, conducts maritime exercises in an undisclosed sea region together with Sovremenny-class destroyers Taizhou (Hull 138) and Hangzhou (Hull 136). Photo: Screenshot from the PLA Daily. The fourth improved Type 052D guided missile destroyer of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy made its first appearance in a maritime exercise after its recent commissioning, as Chinese analysts praised the Chinese warships' speed in gaining combat capabilities.

The destroyers Taizhou, Hangzhou and Suzhou, attached to a destroyer taskforce affiliated with the PLA Eastern Theater Command Navy, recently conducted a series of scenario-based combat exercises in an undisclosed sea region, the PLA Daily reported on Monday. More than a dozen of training objectives were completed, with officers' commanding abilities and the ships' coordinated combat capabilities increased, the report said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202103/1219894.shtml>

## **VT4 MBT joins Pakistan Day military parade**

China Military Online, March 29, 2021

The China-made VT4 main battle tank (MBT) joined the Pakistan Day military parade for the first time in Islamabad on March 25. According to news from the Pakistan newspaper Dawn, a seven-tank cavalry with the VT4 tank leading three Al-Khalid tanks and three T-80UD tanks spearheaded other mechanical formations during the military parade. Manufactured by the China North Industries Corp. (NORINCO), the VT4 tank is an export-oriented third-generation main battle tank with a main gun caliber of 125mm. It can launch Armor Piercing Fin Stabilized Discarding Sabot (APFSDS), high explosive anti-tank cartridge (HEAT) and fragmentation-blast shell, with an armor-piercing capacity of 700mm, which can be augmented to 1,000mm when matched with new-type armor-piercing shells.

The VT4 tank now adopts the China-made power module instead of the one imported from Ukraine used in VT1 tank. Such a substitution of power module has realized a major improvement on the VT4 tank, giving it a maximum speed of 70km per hour. It is learned that the China-made export-oriented VT-4 MBT made its debut at the opening ceremony of the 10th China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition on November 11, 2014. It has been purchased by Thailand, Nigeria, and Pakistan. In addition, multiple other China-made weapons and equipment also showed in the Pakistan Day military parade as part of the engineering equipment formation, air-defense weapon formation, and strategic equipment formation. The China-made Z-9 helicopter, JF-17 Thunder fighter jet co-developed by China and Pakistan, and K-8 training plane piloted by Pakistan Lion Aerobatic Team also flew during the parade.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/29/content\\_10013159.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-03/29/content_10013159.htm)

## **Chinese warplane firm lays out plans for new stealth fighter & next-gen aircraft**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, March 29, 2021

A top Chinese warplane-producing company recently announced plans to make technological breakthroughs to ensure the successful development of a new, fourth-generation stealth fighter jet, and conduct test production and research on its next-generation aircraft in 2021. China is widely expected to develop an aircraft carrier-ready stealth fighter jet, as the US is racing China in next-generation warplane development. Dubbed a cradle of Chinese fighter jets, the Shenyang Aircraft Co. Ltd. under the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) released a statement last week on its WeChat public account and revealed its work plans for 2021.

The company aims to make breakthroughs in its fourth-generation fighter jet program by boosting related technologies, including additive manufacturing, control over surface electromagnetic defects, and automated fiber placement, so that the aircraft can be successfully developed, the statement said. A fourth-generation fighter jet, in the Chinese context, is a stealth fighter jet comparable to the likes of J-20, F-22 and Su-57. While the statement did not specify the name of the aircraft, it attached photos of the FC-31, the only known fourth-generation fighter jet being made by the Shenyang-based company.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202103/1219767.shtml>



## **PLA plateau forces commission amphibious rescue vehicle, ‘useful in Galwan-like terrain’**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, March 29, 2021

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Xinjiang Military Command forces stationed in plateau regions recently commissioned a new type of amphibious armored vehicle for rescue missions, with analysts pointing out on Sunday that its amphibious capability means it could perform well in valley-spread high altitude border regions like Galwan Valley. Entering service at an undisclosed military base at an elevation of more than 4,300 meters, the domestically developed vehicle demonstrated its superior capabilities over normal field rescue vehicles and manpower, the capabilities of which are limited in the complex and harsh environments of the battlefield, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Friday.

The front and two sides of the vehicle can resist close-range hits from 7.62mm armor-piercing rounds and shrapnel from explosives, and its eight wheels can run at 40 kilometers an hour for 100 kilometers even when penetrated by 12.7mm rounds, CCTV said, noting that the vehicle is also designed to withstand nuclear, biological and chemical attacks.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202103/1219677.shtml>

## **China announces further military exercises in disputed South China Sea**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, March 27, 2021

China will conduct a military drill in the South China Sea next Monday and Tuesday as tensions in the region continue to rise. The China Maritime Safety Administration issued a notice on Friday afternoon, saying an area between China’s southernmost province Hainan and the Paracel Islands will be closed to marine traffic due to military training. The previous day the Philippine military sent more warships to carry out “sovereignty patrols” in the South China Sea, where Chinese vessels have surrounded the disputed Whitsun Reef and refused to leave.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3127271/china-announces-further-military-exercises-disputed-south-china>

## **Taiwan reports largest ever incursion by Chinese air force**

South China Morning Post, March 27, 2021

Twenty Chinese military aircraft entered Taiwan’s air defence identification zone on Friday, in the largest incursion yet reported by the island’s defence ministry. The move marked a dramatic escalation of tension across the Taiwan Strait, and came soon after the US and Taiwan signed a memorandum of understanding to boost cooperation between their coastguards. The island’s defence ministry said the air force deployed missiles to “monitor” the incursion into the southwestern part of its air defence identification zone. It also said its planes warned the Chinese aircraft, including by radio.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3127218/taiwan-reports-largest-ever-incursion-chinese-air>

## **China's J-16 fighter jet is flawless and much superior to the Su-30: pilot**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, March 25, 2021

China's J-16 multi-role fighter jet is flawless and is much superior to other similar aircraft including, the Su-30, revealed a pilot who has experience flying it as well as other types of aircraft. The J-16 has been a frequent flyer near the Taiwan Straits and has also been deployed to safeguard China's western borders. Analysts said on Wednesday that the fighter jet is one of China's core elements of air defense forces. "In terms of performance, the J-16 is superior to all types of aircraft I have flown. Speaking of the control capacity of the aircraft, the J-16 is a 3.5 generation plane with huge breakthroughs in radar and fire control systems in comparison with previous aircraft, said Wang Songxi, a flying instructor at the People's Liberation Army Northern Theater Command Air Force, during an interview with China Central Television (CCTV) on Tuesday.

The J-16 has no flaws, because it is equipped with many types of weapons and can operate under all weather conditions, Wang said. Explaining the strong combat capabilities of the J-16, Wang drew some comparisons with other well-known aircraft.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202103/1219382.shtml>