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Chinese military to hold multinational peacekeeping exercise Shared Destiny-2021

China Military Online, August 26, 2021

According to Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense, the Chinese military will host the first multinational peacekeeping live exercise "Shared Destiny-2021" at the combined-arms tactical training base of the PLA Army in Queshan County of central China's Henan Province from September 6 to 15. Militaries of China, Pakistan, Mongolia and Thailand will dispatch more than 1,000 troops to participate in the drills, involving units of infantry, fast response, security, helicopter, engineering, transportation, and medical services, said Tan at a regular press conference in Beijing on August 26.

The scenario of the exercise is joint operations of multinational peacekeeping forces, and the exercise will be held in a close-to-real battlefield environment set in accordance with the international, professional and realistic combat standards. In the exercise, drills of battlefield reconnaissance, security guarding and patrol, armed escort, protection of civilians, response to violent and terrorist attacks, construction of temporary operation base, battlefield first aid, and pandemic control will be conducted, for the purpose of responding to the UN's "Action for Peacekeeping" initiative, promoting practical cooperation and making joint efforts to enhance the peacekeeping standby forces' capability of carrying out tasks. Tan said that the Chinese military, as a proactive practitioner of the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, will continue to take a more active part in UN peacekeeping operations and always be a staunch defender of world peace.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-08/26/content_10081500.htm

Xi holds phone conversation with Putin

Ministry of Defence, August 25, 2021

In the conversation, Xi said since the beginning of this year, China and Russia have taken the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation as a new starting point to promote strategic coordination and comprehensive practical cooperation between the two countries. The two countries should explore new ways of cooperation, expand cooperation areas and work to achieve more cooperation results, Xi said. As comprehensive strategic partners of coordination for a new era, China and Russia should deepen cooperation against interference and firmly hold their respective national future in their own hands, Xi said. China firmly supports Russia in pursuing a development path that suits its national conditions, and firmly supports Russia's measures to safeguard its national sovereignty and security, Xi said.

The two leaders also had an in-depth exchange of views on the situation in Afghanistan. Xi stressed that China respects the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and adheres to the policy of non-interference in its internal affairs, and has played a constructive role in resolving the Afghanistan issue via political means. Xi said that China stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Russia and the broader

international community to encourage all factions in Afghanistan to build an open and inclusive political structure through consultation, implement moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, thoroughly dissociate from all terrorist groups, and maintain friendly relations with the rest of the world, especially neighboring countries.

http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2021-08/25/content_4892999.htm

China has improved accuracy of its missile force, US Army finds

South China Morning Post, August 24, 2021

The Chinese military has improved the accuracy and range of its ballistic missile force, the world's largest, according to a new US Army report. The DF-11, the most widely deployed short-range ballistic missile of the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force, was originally designed to hit targets out to 186 miles, but newer models have expanded ranges beyond 435 miles, according to an August 9 Army publication titled Chinese Tactics released on Monday by the Federation of American Scientists' Project on Government Secrecy. "Accuracy has also increased, reducing" the intended target point to only 32 yards, "giving theatre commanders a long-range precision strike capability", according to the Army publication. The DF-11 can employ both conventional and nuclear warheads. The "solid-fuel rocket and mobile transporter-erector-launchers enable rapid launch and reload operations", it added. The US Army is attempting to reshape its forces from their 20-year emphasis on counter-insurgency to focus on an Indo-Pacific presence geared toward countering China in coordination with the Air Force and Navy. The new publication presents a menu of the longer-range and more accurate Chinese missiles that US forces and Taiwan would face in a conflict.

In addition, the newer DF-15/16 missile has ranges of 600km (372 miles) to 1,000km (621 miles) and "they employ advanced anti ballistic missile countermeasures such as terminal manoeuvres and decoys," the Army publication says. "Early variants were not accurate enough for precision strikes," but newer models are much-improved. "These missiles can employ nuclear or conventional warheads, and have a significantly larger payload" than most short-range ballistic missiles. The publication, which also covers many other Chinese military capabilities, is the latest to portray the military might of a nation US leaders consider the prime threat driving US strategic planning and spending.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3146101/china-has-improved-accuracy-its-missile-force-us>

China holds naval drills ahead of US-led Quad exercise off the coast of Guam

Sarah Zheng

South China Morning Post, August 24, 2021

PLA is conducting live ammunition training in the South China Sea, Yellow Sea and Bohai Strait. It will finish as American, Indian, Australian and Japanese navies begin high-profile Malabar. China kicked off a series of naval exercises on Tuesday, ahead of a high-profile joint

drill between the US and other members of the strategic Quad alliance off the coast of Guam. Chinese forces are conducting live ammunition training near the southern province of Guangdong in the South China Sea, and off the northeast coast near Liaoning in the Yellow Sea and Bohai Strait, according to Maritime Safety Administration notices warning against entry to the waters.

It comes as the United States is seeking to reassure allies of its commitment to the region amid fallout from the Afghanistan withdrawal and the chaotic fall of Kabul. Speaking in Singapore on Tuesday, Vice-President Kamala Harris took aim at China, saying it posed a threat to Asian nations but that the US would not force them to choose between the world's two largest economies. Harris also identified China's "unlawful" territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea as a key regional threat. "Beijing's actions continue to undermine the rules-based order and threaten the sovereignty of nations," she said in the speech ahead of a visit to Vietnam.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3146192/china-holds-naval-drills-ahead-us-led-quad-exercise-coast-guam>

China's military uses civilian cargo ship for transport in 'Taiwan invasion drill'

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, August 24, 2021

State television shows 16,000-tonne vessels carrying dozens of military vehicles. Analyst says civilian ships could be used to bring in supplies during an attack. China's military made use of a large civilian cargo ship to transport troops, weapons and supplies in a recent drill, which one analyst said would be used should the PLA launch an attack on self-ruled Taiwan. The exercise was highlighted on state television last week. It involved an amphibious brigade from the 73rd Group Army based in Xiamen, Fujian – the eastern province that faces Taiwan across a narrow strait. Transport was provided by a 16,000-tonne civilian ship, CCTV said in the report on August 17, without saying when or where the exercise was held. "It's the first time we've used a civilian ship with displacement of more than 10,000 tonnes," Wang Hua, an officer with the 73rd Group Army, told the broadcaster. "In the past we relied on smaller civilian ships of a few thousand tonnes to handle offshore loading of supplies."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3146072/chinas-military-uses-civilian-cargo-ship-transport-taiwan>

China, Russia, Iran military drills in Gulf enhance regional security, against external interference

Song Zhongping

Global Times, August 24, 2021

China, Russia and Iran will hold joint maritime exercises in the Persian Gulf around late 2021 or early 2022, according to Russian Ambassador to Iran Levan Dzhangaryan who was cited in a

report by RIA news agency on Monday. Dzhagaryan said the drills are to "ensure the safety of international shipping and the fight against sea pirates." It is vital for China, Russia and Iran to ensure the safety of international shipping. Most of Russia's international trade is carried by cargo ships. Iran also relies on shipping for its oil exports. China's imports of oil and gas and some other foreign trade depend on shipping as well. To ensure the safety of shipping is to safeguard the economic security of the three countries. Therefore, it is normal to see China, Russia and Iran cooperate in terms of navy, especially their joint efforts against regional hegemony and sea pirates.

The New York Post especially mentioned that the drills will be conducted by "three of America's biggest adversaries." Another article by US state media mouthpiece Voice of America in April asserted that Beijing was roping in Tehran and Moscow to form a threesome of "autocracies" and rally against a "democratic" group. Cooperation among China, Russia and Iran is centered on mutual benefits and win-win, rather than forming an alliance and engaging in confrontation. Take China and Iran. Iran can provide China the much-needed oil, and Iran hopes to increase its economic strength by expanding its energy exports.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1232304.shtml>

PLA Rocket Force launches two new-type missiles

China Military Online, August 24, 2021

A conventional missile brigade under the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Rocket Force recently launched two new-type missiles during a live-fire drill in the deserts in Northwest China. The missiles accurately hit mock targets in the well-protected "enemy" defense positions hundreds of kilometers away.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-08/24/content_10080451.htm

IAG 2021: "Seaborne Assault" competition kicks off

China Military Online, August 24, 2021

The competition "Seaborne Assault" under the International Army Games (IAG) 2021 kicked off in Vladivostok, Russia on August 23. The Chinese participating team will compete with teams from Russia, Iran, Venezuela and other countries. The "Seaborne Assault" competition consists of three stages, namely, "Relay", "Obstacle Course" and "Survival Path". The first "Relay" stage is set on a route running 5.5km, with 5km on land and 0.5km at sea. Participating crews need to drive through 10 obstacles, including the passage between the pillars, mock ramp landing craft and a plot of driving (maneuvering) afloat, with the BTR-82A wheeled armored personnel carrier (APC) provided by the Russian Navy. It is designed to examine crew's skill of operating equipment to pass through complex terrains and their fighting capacity. It is learnt that the "Seaborne Assault" competition will wrap up on August 27.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-08/24/content_10080578.htm

Taiwan's planned US\$7 billion missile boost may push PLA to step up combat readiness

Lawrence Chung and Laura Zhou

South China Morning Post, August 23, 2021

Taiwan's defence ministry is reportedly seeking to significantly expand the self-ruled island's missile development budget, but analysts expect a "rational" response from China's military despite its sabre-rattling. They say a war across the Taiwan Strait is unlikely for now, and the People's Liberation Army will continue to focus on boosting combat readiness. "At this stage, initiating a strike [against Taiwan] is rather unlikely and [Beijing] will probably take a more rational approach – that could mean more verbal attacks and stepping up the military strategy and preparedness for war," said Zhu Songling, a professor at the Institute of Taiwan Studies at Beijing Union University.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3146050/taiwans-planned-us7-billion-missile-boost-may-push-pla-step>

Will US military exercises send the desired signal to China?

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, August 22, 2021

The Large Scale Exercise 2021 was the biggest of its kind since the Cold War and was designed to showcase America's advantages over China and Russia. But Chinese analysts say it also highlighted some US weaknesses at a time it is struggle to reassure allies after its withdrawal from Afghanistan. The largest US amphibious exercise in 40 years highlighted Washington's anxiety to show its global military supremacy over Russia and China but also exposed some of its weaknesses, Chinese military observers have said. The Large Scale Exercise 2021 took place between August 3 and 16 across 17 time zones and involved 25,000 personnel from global combat commands in the Atlantic, Pacific and Europe. The naval and marine units involved in the exercises are responsible for potential flashpoints with Russia and China, including the Black Sea and eastern Mediterranean, as well as the East and South China seas.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3145894/will-us-military-exercises-send-desired-signal-china>

Are cosier China-Cambodia ties a sign Beijing's plan to set up military bases overseas is gathering steam?

Maria Siow

South China Morning Post, August 22, 2021

Experts say China has a strategic interest in having more such bases worldwide, not just to project military power but also to safeguard its global interests. But while Beijing may be exploring this route in response to US-led efforts to counter its influence, the path to a network of outposts abroad is hardly straightforward. "Steel-like." That was the expression China's

Ministry of National Defence spokesperson Wu Qian used last month, for the first time, to describe the friendship between Beijing and Phnom Penh, according to a report in nationalistic Chinese tabloid The Global Times.

To many observers, that reference to the relationship between China and Cambodia raised concerns that Beijing might have made further progress in setting up a permanent military presence at the Ream Naval Base in the Southeast Asian nation. Though long denied by Phnom Penh, the rapid construction this year of two buildings at the base – just north of where United States-funded facilities were demolished last year – has raised concerns that China stands to benefit from the upgrades.

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3145648/are-cosier-china-cambodia-ties-sign-beijings-plan-set-military>

China says it successfully tested two new missiles that can take out military command and communications systems

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, August 21, 2021

State media says the short-range weapons can overcome ‘multilayer defences’ to paralyse an enemy’s information facilities. Missiles hailed for boosting the PLA's combat capabilities, and military observers say they could be used in event of conflict with Taiwan or the United States. China has successfully tested two short-range conventional missiles designed to take out enemy communications systems, state media reported on Saturday. According to state broadcaster China Central Television, the People’s Liberation Army Rocket Force recently tested two new missiles that can overcome “complex electromagnetic interference” to destroy facilities in a “fast-reaction” operation. “[The missiles] successfully hit the target in an enemy camp equipped with multilayer defences several hundred kilometres away and effectively paralysed the enemy’s key communications node,” CCTV reported.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3145896/china-says-it-successfully-tested-two-new-missiles-can-take-out>

China’s military nuclear orders rise fourfold in push to catch up with US

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, August 20, 2021

The main contractor for China’s nuclear projects has seen a massive increase in orders from the military compared with a year ago, signalling Beijing’s intensified push to boost its military nuclear capacities. China Nuclear Engineering and Construction Group Corporation Limited reported that the value of its military contracts in the first seven months had surged nearly fourfold year-on-year. Observers said the figures reflected China’s steadfast efforts to catch up with the United States, which is increasingly concerned about China’s nuclear capabilities, including recent reports about the build-up of missile silos.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3145851/chinas-military-nuclear-orders-rise-fourfold-push-catch-us>

China, Arabs eye closer green energy ties on solar panels, hydrogen

Li Qiaoyi

Global Times, August 20, 2021

Wind turbines run smoothly in Qitai county in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Bordering Mongolia and located east of the Altay Mountains, the county is known as the hometown of wind for its strong year-round gusts that sometimes annoy residents. With investment by wind power enterprises, the county has become a new energy base with an annual capacity of 1.7 million kilowatts. Wind turbines run smoothly in Qitai county in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Bordering Mongolia and located east of the Altay Mountains, the county is known as "the hometown of wind" for its strong year-round gusts that sometimes annoy residents. With investment by wind power enterprises, the county has become a new energy base with an annual capacity of 1.7 million kilowatts.

China and Arab states, both tasked with a mission to ensure energy security while pushing for a transition toward renewables, have set their eyes on closer energy ties, notably in green sources such as solar panels, hydrogen and nuclear power, energy authorities and industry insiders said Friday at a major expo in Yinchuan, Northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1232044.shtml>

BRICS space agencies in deal to share remote sensing satellite data

Xinhua, August 18, 2021

Space agencies of BRICS countries have signed an agreement on cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing, according to the China National Space Administration. Leaders of space agencies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa shared the updated activities and signed the Agreement on the Cooperation on BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation via a video meeting, according to the administration. The agreement enables BRICS space agencies to jointly build a "virtual constellation of remote sensing satellites," which works as a data sharing mechanism.

This remote sensing data sharing mechanism will help BRICS space agencies meet common challenges such as climate change, disasters and environmental protection, the administration added. The constellation is made up of existing satellites contributed by BRICS space agencies. The satellites include CBERS-4, jointly developed by Brazil and China, Russia's Kanopus-V type, India's Resourcesat-2 and 2A, as well as China's Gaofen-6, and Ziyuan III 02. The BRICS space agencies include the Brazilian Space Agency, Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos, Indian Space Research Organisation, China National Space Administration and

South African National Space Agency.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-08/18/c_1310134918.htm

Chinese President Xi Jinping talks with Iranian, Iraqi presidents over phone

Global Times, August 18, 2021

Chinese President Xi Jinping made phone calls with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Iraqi President Barham Salih respectively on Wednesday, during which Xi spoke highly of China's relations with the two countries. Xi told Raisi that China will unwaveringly push forward with its good relationship with Iran, no matter how the international and regional situation evolves, and he told his Salih that China supports Iraq in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations 50 years ago, China and Iran have seen changes in international society, Xi told Raisi, noting that China values Iran's efforts in developing friendly ties and is willing to push relations further forward. No matter how the international situation evolves, China will unwaveringly develop a good relationship with Iran, said Xi. He noted that China supports Iran's rational requests on nuclear issues, and is willing to cooperate with Iran on regional affairs so as to promote regional safety and stability.

Raisi also thanked China for supporting Iran's battle against COVID-19, and expressed a desire to cooperate with China and stand up together against unilateralism, hegemonism and foreign interference. The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China is far-sighted and Iran is willing to participate, said Raisi. When speaking with the Iraqi President Salih, Xi said that China supports Iraq in fighting terrorism and safeguarding its national safety and stability. The Chinese president said that China supports Iraqi people in choosing a path that is suitable for Iraq's own situation, and opposes any foreign forces meddling with Iraq's domestic affairs.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1231898.shtml>

China's space-tracking vessel departs for Indian Ocean missions

Xinhua, August 17, 2021

China's tracking vessel Yuanwang-6 departed on Tuesday from its home port in east China's Jiangsu Province for a new round of monitoring missions in the Indian Ocean. Yuanwang-6 will operate at sea for around 76 days in this round of maritime monitoring missions, covering more than 16,000 nautical miles during its voyage. Before departure, the ship's personnel completed vessel examination and maintenance, ensuring all systems and facilities aboard Yuanwang-6 were in good working order. As China's third-generation space-tracking ship, Yuanwang-6 has taken part in 70 maritime monitoring and control missions. So far this year, it has operated at sea for more than 130 days and conducted six maritime monitoring missions, including China's Shenzhou-12 manned spaceship flight mission.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-08/17/c_1310132820.htm

Chinese scientists say their model can predict dangerous ‘internal waves’ in Andaman Sea

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, August 12, 2021

A Chinese team studying “internal waves” so strong they can sink submarines in the Andaman Sea say they have developed a computer model to predict when and where the worst ones are likely to happen. They focused on a particular area of the sea, where some of the world’s largest internal waves – or sudden changes in ocean density – occur, near the western end of the Strait of Malacca. The researchers from the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Guangzhou set out to understand how the internal waves formed and developed, a process they said was more complex in the Andaman Sea than elsewhere. This understanding could potentially help to improve submarine safety and combat capabilities like communication, target tracking and torpedo strikes.

“Internal solitary waves [a particularly extreme type of internal wave] can have a big impact on the marine environment,” the team led by marine scientist Cai Shuqun wrote in the peer-reviewed paper. “The numerical simulation at present only reveals part of the full picture,” they said. Self-powered soft robot developed by Chinese scientists reaches the world's deepest point. In the Andaman Sea region, complex underwater landscapes make it harder for researchers to study the phenomenon. The floor of the Indian Ocean rises by nearly 3,000 metres to the west of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, then drops by more than 1,000 metres to the east. The terrain and currents are challenging, with numerous ridges, reefs and banks created by volcanoes and earthquakes. A key question for the Chinese researchers was where did the internal waves in the Andaman Sea – some of them hundreds of kilometres long – come from. After analysing masses of data, they concluded that the most likely source was the southern tip of the Andaman archipelago and developed a computer model to test the theory.

The model estimated that the biggest downward currents occurred at locations in the middle of the Andaman Sea. So in those places, it could predict when it would be safest for a submarine to pass – during diurnal tides. That is when there is one high tide and one low tide in a day, and the internal waves would be much smaller. More than half of China’s foreign trade passes nearby, through the busy Strait of Malacca, and while the underwater disturbances have little impact on ships on the ocean surface, Chinese naval activity has increased in the area in recent years, including to protect the country’s merchant vessels from pirate attacks. China is also concerned that its neighbour India – whose exclusive economic zone covers a large part of the Andaman Sea – could cut off its most important trade route as their relationship deteriorates over a long-running border dispute and geopolitical rivalry in the region. Chinese marine scientists have been studying internal waves for decades thanks to increased funding from the government, but the Andaman Sea only recently became a research focus. In the past few years the country has sent survey vessels to the sea and planted underwater sensors there to collect data for internal wave analysis and other research, according to openly available information.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3144684/chinese-scientists-say-their-model-can-predict-dangerous>

