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UK's military deployment in Asia-Pacific inconducive to regional stability: Defense Spokesperson

China Military Online, September 30, 2021

“The British side has significantly increased its military deployment in the Asia-Pacific region since this year, which is not conducive to regional peace and stability.” said a defense ministry spokesperson on Thursday. Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense made this remark when being asked to comment on the at least 5-year regular deployment of two British Royal Navy patrol ships to the Indo-Pacific, and the first docking of the British aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth at the US naval base in Yokosuka, Japan. Media reports said that the UK aimed to proclaim to its allies and partners its determination and capacity to manage the Indo-Pacific in the long term. In response to that, Wu pointed out that for the past few years, bilateral military relations between Britain and China have maintained stable development in general.

On September 10, General Li Zuocheng, member of China's CMC and chief of staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department, was invited to have a video call with General Sir Nick Carter, UK's Chief of the Defence Staff, through which they had a frank and in-depth exchange of views on regional security situation and national defense policy, bilateral relations and military relations between the two countries, and other issues of common concern. With the increasing global challenges, China and the UK should enhance exchanges and cooperation, which is not only in the common interests of the two countries, but also conducive to world peace, stability and development, Wu stressed. Wu mentioned at the same time that in recent years, the situation in the Asia-Pacific region remained stable in general. Most countries in this region actively carried out anti-pandemic cooperation, strengthened joint prevention and control, and speeded up work resumption to promote economic recovery. However, it is noted that the British side has significantly increased its military deployment in the Asia-Pacific region since this year, which is not conducive to regional peace and stability. The Chinese armed forces will take necessary measures to earnestly safeguard national sovereignty, national security and development interests, as well as maintain regional peace, stability and prosperity, he reiterated.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-09/30/content_10095053.htm

New AVIC fighter jet to appear 'before year's end'

Zhao Lei

China Daily, September 30, 2021

China will unveil its new-generation carrier-based fighter jet before the end of this year, according to a key figure at Aviation Industry Corp of China, the major supplier of military aircraft to the nation's armed forces. "Once the new plane is ready for its debut flight, it will appear in front of all of you and also on the internet. So take it easy and wait. You will get to see it before year's end," said Sun Cong, president of the Chinese Aeronautical Establishment and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

He made the remarks at a news conference in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, on Wednesday on

the sidelines of the 13th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, popularly known as the Zhuhai Airshow. Sun was the chief designer of the country's first carrier-based fighter jet, the J-15, and the second stealth fighter – the FC-31. It was the first statement by anyone from AVIC about the possible time when the new plane will appear publicly or even conduct its maiden flight.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202109/30/WS6154f9dea310cdd39bc6c799.html>

China's Chang'e-4 completes 1,000 days on far side of moon

China Military Online, September 30, 2021

The lander and rover of the Chang'e-4 probe have worked for 1,000 Earth days on the far side of the moon as of Wednesday, according to the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of the China National Space Administration. The lander and rover Yutu-2 are in good condition. The payloads aboard are also working properly and will continue the scientific exploration on the far side of the moon. As of Wednesday, Yutu-2 has traveled 839.37 meters and obtained 3,632.01 gigabytes (GB) of data.

A lunar day is equal to 14 days on Earth, and a lunar night is the same length. Currently, the lander and rover have been switched to dormant mode for the 34th lunar night due to the lack of solar power. The Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center will continue to publish the latest findings of the probe.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-09/30/content_10094865.htm

Chinese military blasts UK frigate's passage through Taiwan Strait as an 'opportunistic' stunt

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, 2021

HMS Richmond makes its transit between the mainland and the island less than two weeks after Britain, the US and Australia announced their Aukus alliance. The route, as the HMS Queen Elizabeth carrier group made its way to Vietnam, shows the UK's commitment to American Indo-Pacific policy, analysts say. The Chinese military has accused Britain of a "mentality of opportunism to undermine the stability of Taiwan Strait", with the passage on Monday of a warship from the HMS Queen Elizabeth carrier strike group through the Taiwan Strait. HMS Richmond, a Type 23 frigate that arrived in the Indo-Pacific region with the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, tweeted on Monday that it was passing through the narrow waterway that separates the Chinese mainland and the self-ruled island of Taiwan. "After a busy period working with partners and allies in the East China Sea, we are now en route through the Taiwan Strait to visit Vietnam and the Vietnamese People's Navy," the message said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3150306/chinese-military-blasts-uk-frigates-passage-through-taiwan>

Taiwan warns of mainland military threat to command, control systems in call for long-range missiles

South China Morning Post, September 27, 2021

Taiwan needs to have long-range, accurate weapons in order to properly deter a mainland China that is rapidly developing its systems to attack the island, Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng said. This comes after Taipei this month proposed extra defence spending of almost US\$9 billion over the next five years, including on new missiles, as it warned of an urgent need to upgrade weapons in the face of a “severe threat” from across the Taiwan Strait.

Beijing claims self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory, to be reunited by force if necessary.

“The development of equipment must be long-range, precise, and mobile, so that the enemy can sense that we are prepared as soon as they dispatch their troops,” he added, referring to Taiwan’s missile capability. In a written report to legislators to accompany Chiu’s appearance, the ministry said both medium- and long-range missiles were being used in intercept drills at a key test facility on Taiwan’s southeastern coast.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3150251/taiwan-warns-mainland-military-threat-command-control-systems>

Australian Aukus subs: are China’s fears of a nuclear arms race in the Indo-Pacific founded?

Eduardo Baptista

South China Morning Post, September 27, 2021

China has said the United States’ decision to help Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines increased the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Indo-Pacific, but international experts say the extent of the risk depends on how the submarines are regulated. The trilateral Aukus pact will allow Australia to build nuclear-powered submarines using US technology, a prospect that Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said “will gravely undermine regional peace and stability, aggravate an arms race and impair international nuclear non-proliferation efforts”. However, its potential to serve as a gateway for nuclear weapons depends on how the nuclear technology is transferred from the US to Australia, according to Milton Leitenberg, a senior researcher at the University of Maryland’s Centre for International and Security Studies.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3150156/australian-aukus-subs-are-chinas-fears-nuclear-arms-race-indo>

Chinese scientists eye hypersonic weapon able to ‘fry’ telecoms systems in 10 seconds

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, September 26, 2021

Defeat an army without a fight and without casualties? Quite possible, if a new type of hypersonic weapon proposed by a team of rocket scientists in China becomes reality.

Designed to generate an intense electromagnetic pulse capable of wiping out communication and power supply lines, the weapon would have a range of 3,000km – about the distance from China’s east coast to Guam. Cruising at six times the speed of sound, it would cover this distance in 25 minutes. Unlike ballistic missiles, it would stay within the earth’s atmosphere to dodge space-based early warning systems, while using active stealth technology to avoid detection by radars on the ground, according to the team of researchers at the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology in Beijing.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3150168/chinese-scientists-eye-hypersonic-weapon-able-fry-telecoms>

China, US unlikely to have military conflict, Chinese think tank says

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, September 26, 2021

Contact between the two militaries has helped to prevent political disputes leading to misunderstandings, it reports. Top US military officer is known to have made calls to reassure his Chinese counterpart in the final months of Donald Trump’s presidency. The risk of military conflict between China and the US remains relatively low despite the two powers’ disagreements over the South China Sea and broader rivalry, a military think tank has concluded. Defence and maritime experts also said extensive interaction between the two militaries over the years had helped to ensure restraint rather than either instigating aggression. The chance of a surprise US attack on features in the disputed South China Sea that had been built on by China was “relatively low” because all parties were disinclined to take strategic risks, according to a report by Knowfar Institute for Strategic and Defence Studies, a think tank founded by retired Chinese military officers.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3150094/china-us-unlikely-have-military-conflict-chinese-think-tank>

China to debut J-16D at air show, signalling electromagnetic warfare prowess

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, September 25, 2021

Electronic variant of the J-16 fighter will feature at Zhuhai Airshow and bears military insignia, indicating it has entered service. The Chinese jet is the second of its type, after the American EA-18G Growler. China’s electronic warfare aircraft the J-16D will make its debut at the country’s largest air show next week, showcasing the advances in the military’s capabilities in electromagnetic warfare.

A J-16D – the electronic variant of China’s J-16 fighter – landed in the southern city of Zhuhai on Tuesday in preparation for display at the show, China Central Television (CCTV) reported. The six-day China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition, also known as the Zhuhai Airshow or Airshow China, begins next Tuesday. The aircraft was painted with the insignia of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), CCTV said. That indicates that it has been in service for the military.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3150032/china-debut-j-16d-air-show-signalling-electromagnetic-warfare>

1st Quad summit tacitly targets China but US 'can't coordinate members' differences, doomed to fail'

Liu Xin

Global Times, September 25, 2021

The leaders of the US, Japan, India and Australia — known as the Quad — finished their face-to-face meeting in Washington on Friday in an attempt to cement ties while containing China, but experts said that an interlude during the meeting involving US President Joe Biden complaining about his translation device malfunction is an omen of the emerging anti-China clique's future — that it cannot function at all due to US' declining capability and changes of the global situation. The Friday meeting focused on topics including vaccines, climate, cooperation on technology and space without mentioning the words "China" or "Beijing" in opening remarks heard by reporters, but China was "the subtext of most of the group's agenda," the Washington Post reported.

Biden said the countries were "coming together to take on key challenges of our age, from COVID to climate to emerging technologies" and he added in his opening remarks at the meeting that "we know how to get things done, and we are up to the challenge." Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison echoed Biden's remarks, saying "we believe in a free and open Indo-Pacific, because we know that's what delivers a strong, stable and prosperous region." Outgoing Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga also attended Friday's meeting and said that the Quad is "an extremely significant" initiative by four countries "who share fundamental values, cooperating for the cause of realizing a free and open international order based on the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific." Although the leaders of the four countries did not mention China and were trying to play down disputes with China, the entire agenda and all topics in the summit focused on China. It is an initiative that aims to incite disputes and confrontation under the banner of cooperation especially in the Western Pacific, Li Haidong, a professor at the Institute of International Relations of the China Foreign Affairs University, told the Global Times on Saturday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202109/1235044.shtml>

China should 'fine-tune' nuclear weapons policy amid US pressure, ex-diplomat says

Laura Zhou

South China Morning Post, September 22, 2021

Former disarmament affairs envoy to UN calls for review of ‘no first use’ pledge as a way to counter America’s growing military presence in region. In a speech, Sha Zukang also says it is only ‘a matter of time’ before Beijing joins an arms control pact with Washington and Moscow. China should review its policy of not being the first to use a nuclear weapon in a conflict, as it comes under growing pressure from the US and its military alliances, a former diplomat said. Sha Zukang, who was the Chinese ambassador for disarmament affairs to the UN in Geneva in the 1990s and is now retired, also said it was only “a matter of time” before China joined an arms control pact with the US and Russia, but that would depend on American progress on nuclear arms reduction. He made the remarks at a conference in Beijing last week marking 20 years since the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association was founded.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3149720/china-should-fine-tune-nuclear-weapons-policy-amid-us-pressure>

China military: PLA in market for Russian Ka-52K heavy attack helicopters

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, September 21, 2021

China has struggled to come up with its own combat choppers for its new amphibious assault ships. Agreement would signal closer defence ties amid US hostility, observer says. China is considering buying three dozen Russian naval attack helicopters, a purchase that would “give wings” to the Chinese military’s new generation of amphibious assault ships. Military analysts said the deal for the Russian Ka-52Ks would be the third biggest for China and would signal a closer defence partnership between the two countries in the face of US hostility. “The People’s Liberation Army has studied the possibility of buying Russian Ka-52Ks for quite a long time. The Type 075 landing helicopter dock needs a heavy attack helicopter,” said Zhou Chenming, a researcher from the Yuan Wang military science and technology institute in Beijing.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3149462/china-military-pla-market-russian-ka-52k-heavy-attack>

Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant achieve safe operation for 10,000 days

Global Times, September 21, 2021

The Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant, China's first large-scale commercial nuclear power plant located in Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong Province, announced on Tuesday a record of 10,000 days of safe operations and the cumulative power supply of 380 billion kilowatt-hours, an important milestone for the country's nuclear plant development. As the first commercial nuclear power plant of this kind built in the Chinese mainland, it has set a high bar for domestic nuclear power industry while playing a key role in providing the much-needed electricity supply for regional economic development and effectively reducing carbon emissions in an unprecedented level.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202109/1234758.shtml>

Lift-off for Tianzhou 3, China's space station resupply mission

William Zheng

South China Morning Post, September 20, 2021

The cargo ship was successfully launched from Hainan province days after the space station's first crew returned home. Three astronauts are expected to blast off early next month for a six-month mission. China launched a cargo spaceship on Monday to deliver supplies to its Tiangong space station and prepare for a second crewed mission planned for next month. The Tianzhou 3 lifted off aboard a Long March 7 Y4 rocket at 3.10pm from Hainan's Wenchang spacecraft launch centre in southern China, just three days after the first astronauts to crew the space station returned to Earth. The Tianzhou 3 entered orbit within 10 minutes of lift-off and began opening its solar panels after 15 minutes, prompting the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) to declare the launch a success.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3149414/china-launches-tianzhou-3-supply-tiangong-space-station>

Chinese engineers say they have found flaws in the latest US combat drone

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, September 19, 2021

Their analysis suggests its design prioritised weapons and fuel at the expense of manoeuvrability. Previous study had warned the drones could quickly form large swarms and pose a severe threat to the PLA in a conflict. Chinese aviation engineers say they have worked out some critical performance constraints of a stealth combat drone still under development in the United States. Their estimates are based on some photos, openly available information and reverse-engineering software. They found that the XQ-58A Valkyrie, an unmanned combat aerial vehicle, was not good at aerial combat. When making a U-turn, for instance, it can withstand a pull of only about 1.7 times that of gravity, according to their calculations. In a dogfight, most fighter jets need to brake against a force seven times that of gravity or higher.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3149185/chinese-engineers-say-they-have-found-flaws-latest-us-combat>

China launches naval and air drills as US warship transits Taiwan Strait

Teddy Ng

South China Morning Post, September 18, 2021

PLA's Eastern Theatre Command slams repeated 'provocative actions', as USS Barry marks ninth transit of Taiwan Strait by American warships this year. Taiwan plans to spend US\$8.7

billion over the next five years on domestically produced arms, including missiles capable of striking mainland China

Beijing held a military drill targeting Taiwan and described the United States as the “biggest troublemaker” in the region as a US destroyer sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Friday in the ninth such passage by American warships this year. The Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Barry conducted a “routine Taiwan Strait transit” on Friday, a statement from the US Navy’s Seventh Fleet said. “The ship’s transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the US commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific”, it said, adding that the US military “flies, sails, and operates anywhere international law allows”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3149281/chinese-military-steps-night-drills-and-brings-more-advanced>

China urges India to stick to UNSC resolution to refrain from engaging in nuclear tests: FM

Global Times, September 16, 2021

China hopes all parties in South Asia, including India, will make constructive efforts in maintaining peace and stability in the region, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Thursday in response to India's plan to conduct a trial of intercontinental-range ballistic missile that covers Beijing and other Chinese cities, citing the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1172. The resolution condemned India's nuclear bomb tests in 1998 and demanded it to refrain from engaging in further tests. India is set to conduct its first user trial of nuke capable intercontinental-range ballistic missile Agni-V, the Indian Express reported. The 5,000-km range missile is likely to be flight-tested on September 23, and is capable of hitting targets in all Asian countries and parts of Africa and Europe.

Another Indian media outlet swarajyamag.com said that the missile "will bring Beijing and many other critical Chinese cities within the range of Indian land-based nuclear weapons for the first time, establishing a credible nuclear deterrent." Responding to India's latest provocations, Zhao Lijian, a spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry, said at the Thursday's press briefing that maintaining the peace, security and stability in South Asia is in the common interest of all parties, and China hopes all parties will make constructive efforts to this end. "As to whether India can develop ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons, the UN Security Council Resolution 1172 has made clear provisions," Zhao said, citing the resolution that condemned the nuclear tests conducted by India in May 1998. The resolution also demanded India to refrain from further nuclear tests, and immediately stop its nuclear weapon development programs, ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons and any further production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202109/1234509.shtml>

China calls for restraint as North Korea tests cruise missile able to reach Japan

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, September 13, 2021

Pyongyang breaks the lull in testing with 'strategic weapon of great significance', KCNA says, but some experts see moderate military gains. Move ahead of Korean denuclearisation talks in Tokyo makes one analyst call for 'serious pressure', as concessions only seem to inspire more bad behaviour

North Korea's cruise missile tests over the weekend may have caught the world off guard, and prompted "concern" in neighbouring Japan, but indicate only a limited increase in the country's military strength, according to analysts. However, Pyongyang's latest move was certain to disappoint North Korea doves and make the hawks harden their stance, they said, as China called for restraint in the region. That came after the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported that North Korea had successfully carried out tests of a new long-range cruise missile over the weekend.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3148586/china-calls-restraint-north-korea-tests-cruise-missile-able>

China makes breakthrough in high-level radioactive waste disposal technique, achieves milestone in nuclear industry devt

Fan Anqi and Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, September 12, 2021

China's first high-level radioactive liquid waste disposal equipment, capable of melting waste into glass, has been officially put into use in Guangyuan, Southwest China's Sichuan Province, on Saturday, making China one of the few countries in the world to have acquired such a technique. Chinese experts believed that the technique could have been a better option for Japan to dispose the nuclear-contaminated Fukushima wastewater, but Japan "clearly does not want to pay the bill." The equipment is a milestone project at the back end of the nuclear industry chain, and is considered a major step forward in the safe and green development of China's nuclear industry, the Global Times learned from the State Administration of Science, Technology, and Industry for National Defense on Sunday.

Nuclear waste treatment is the final part during the safe use of nuclear energy, of which the most difficult and technically advanced is the treatment of high-level radioactive liquid. To tackle the challenge, China's approach is to mix and melt liquid waste with glass materials at a temperature of 1,100 C or higher and then leave it to cool and form into glass, which can effectively and stably contain the radioactive elements inside, thanks to the low leaching and high strength of the glass, read a statement from the administration. Such an approach to deal with the waste is by far the most advanced method in the world, the statement said. Only the US, France, Germany, and a few others have mastered the technique previously.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202109/1234033.shtml>

Why China's attack on Nato 'double standards' suggests it will continue to build up nuclear arsenal

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, September 12, 2021

The alliance's head Jens Stoltenberg accused Beijing of increasing its firepower 'without constraint' and urged it to sign up to international arms controls. But Beijing hit back by criticising Nato's nuclear sharing arrangements and said the US and Russia should lead the way by disarming. China is expected to continue building up its arsenal of nuclear weapons despite Nato's appeal for it to sign up to international arms controls. Last week Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg criticised China's efforts to develop its nuclear capacity – by building more warheads, delivery systems and silos – “without any limitation or constraint”. He told Nato's annual arms control conference in Brussels that this was making the world “more unpredictable, more competitive and more dangerous”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3148425/why-chinas-attack-nato-double-standards-suggests-it-will>

Regional stability 'at risk' from China's growing use of military drones

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, September 11, 2021

China's growing unmanned aircraft capabilities and focus on increasingly sophisticated military drones are causing headaches for its neighbours and risking regional stability. Three Chinese military drones were spotted near Japan in late August, prompting Tokyo to scramble fighters to investigate their activities. Accompanying the drones were a Shaanxi Y-8Q maritime patrol plane and a Shaanxi Y-9JB electronic intelligence aircraft, according to Japanese officials. But China is not the only country developing and deploying drones in the region. In May, the US temporarily relocated two MQ-4C Triton drones from Guam to the Misawa base in northern Japan – the first such activity by the US military since the drones were sent to Guam early last year.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3147997/regional-stability-risk-chinas-growing-use-military-drones>

