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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)**



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Prepared By:

Archita Anand

## **US ties with Taiwan region harm China-US military relations: Defence Spokesperson**

Wang Xinjuan

China Military News, October 28, 2021

"China strongly opposes any official contacts and military ties between the US and China's Taiwan region. Any attempt to obstruct national reunification and rejuvenation by slavishly soliciting and depending on foreign support is doomed to fail," said a Chinese defence spokesperson. According to reports, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities of China's Taiwan region have repeatedly hyped-up Taiwan's military ties with the US. Especially recently, Taiwan's so-called "Army Commander" led a delegation to visit the US, during which they attended the annual meeting of the Association of the US Army and met the personnel from the US defence department and military.

Tan mentioned that, for some time, some Americans have violated the political commitment of the one-China principle, constantly played the "Taiwan card", and sent extremely wrong signals to the "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces which has resulted in a seriously negative impact on the relations between the two countries and two militaries, as well as the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-10/28/content\\_10103136.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-10/28/content_10103136.htm)

## **China and Laos agree to promote mil-to-mil relations**

Chen Zhuo

China Military News, October 28, 2021

The 7th meeting of China-Laos Military Cooperation/Coordination Committee was held via video link on October 28, 2021. The two sides exchanged in-depth views on military exchanges and cooperation, regional security situation and other issues of common concern during the meeting. Both sides agreed that the two armed forces should earnestly implement important consensus reached by leaders of two countries and the two militaries, further enhance high-level exchanges, expand practical cooperation, and strengthen multilateral coordination, so as to promote the sustained and in-depth development of the relations between the two militaries, and make positive contributions to the development of China-Laos comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership.

[http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2021-10/28/content\\_10103194.htm](http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2021-10/28/content_10103194.htm)

## **China steps up number of missile tests in drive to boost reliability**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, October 28, 2021

China has increased the number of test flights its missiles must undergo before they enter mass production in an effort to improve reliability, according to a new study. New air-to-air missiles previously had to take eight tests where they hit a moving target to prove their worth, a requirement that has now risen to 15. When other tests – for example, checking its resilience against electromagnetic pulse attacks – are factored in, the new missile will have to undertake

around 20 tests. In recent years China has increased the frequency and scale of military exercises using live, cutting-edge weapons.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3154060/china-steps-number-missile-tests-drive-boost-reliability>

**Zhangzhou nuclear power plant, using Hualong One reactor, progresses in construction**  
Global Times, October 27, 2021

China National Nuclear Corporation's (CNNC) power generator in Zhangzhou, East China's Fujian Province, which used China's self-developed Hualong One nuclear reactor, completed its dome installation on October 27, according to the official WeChat account of CNNC, and, the generator is entering its internal construction phase. CNNC said the installation of nuclear power plant's dome is a milestone for the overall construction process of Zhangzhou nuclear power plant. The dome will play an essential role in isolating nuclear radiation produced inside the reactor.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1237433.shtml>

**Xi calls for breaking new ground in weaponry, equipment development**

Chen Zhuo

China Military News October 26, 2021

Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged efforts to break new ground in the development of the country's military weaponry and equipment, and contribute to the realization of the goals set for the centenary of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Hailing the historic achievements in weaponry and equipment development over the past five years, Xi said such progress has served as the material and technological underpinning for the country's strategic capabilities, military strength in particular. He called for efforts to accelerate the implementation of tasks for the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) and advance the building of a modernized management system for weaponry and equipment.

[http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2021-10/26/content\\_10102641.htm](http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2021-10/26/content_10102641.htm)

**China's largest, most advanced civilian patrol boat 'could be used to support South China Sea claims'**

Linda Lew

South China Morning Post, October 26, 2021

China's largest civilian patrol boat entered service on October 23, to deliver strategic resources and help protect the country's maritime claims. The Haixun 09, or "sea patrol", was commissioned under the Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) of the southern province of Guangdong province, which oversees the South China Sea. With a 10,700-tonne displacement,

it is also the most advanced ship in the civilian fleet and is equipped with water cannons, an aerial tracking system, medical rescue capabilities and a helicopter landing deck.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3153455/chinas-largest-most-advanced-civilian-patrol-boat-could-be-used>

### **US, the Biggest Troublemaker in South China Sea**

Jun Sheng

China Military News, October 25, 2021

The vast South China Sea should be a place where merchant ships and fishing boats can sail safely, but there are always troublemakers who just don't like to see the region in peace and security and want to rock the boats and fish in troubled water. The collision incident of the US Navy Submarine USS Connecticut once again revealed that the US is the chief pusher of South China Sea "militarization" and the biggest scourge for regional security.

We see that being more than 8,300 miles away, the US has nevertheless built multiple military bases with offensive weapons and equipment around the South China Sea, and regularly deployed a large number of military aircraft and vessels in the region, even operated over 100 times over the region by using the address code of foreign civil aircraft. This year, the US military has continued to carry out frequent close-in reconnaissance on China both on the sea and in the air as well as massive maritime military exercises targeting China.

We see that the US is busy recruiting gang members, from the Philippines to Vietnam, from Australia to Britain, in the dire attempt to make the South China Sea issue an international one involving multiple parties and put diplomatic pressure on China. As a country out of the region, the US has enforced the South China Sea issue upon various regional and global multilateral frameworks, in a bid to force ASEAN to unify its stance on the issue. It has also propelled Japan and India to "pay attention to" the issue.

[http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2021-10/25/content\\_10102336.htm](http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2021-10/25/content_10102336.htm)

### **Is China leaning towards tiltrotor helicopters for its aircraft carriers?**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 25, 2021

There are signs that China could be developing a new type of helicopter for its aircraft carriers, with the publication of research by a group of Chinese engineers on an algorithm for safer aircraft landing procedures, analysts said.

The engineers are from three mainland-based universities specialising in naval build-up, shipbuilding and aviation, and they published their work in the Journal of Aerospace Engineering, a scientific journal published by American Society of Civil Engineers. They looked at a new landing model based on pigeon-inspired optimisation – calculations based on the behaviour of homing pigeons – with the aim of reducing accidents on tiltrotor helicopters.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3153394/china-leaning-towards-tiltrotor-helicopters-its-aircraft>

### **China passes law to strengthen border security amid ongoing tensions with India and terrorism fears**

Kinling Lo

South China Morning Post, October 24, 2021

China has passed a law to strengthen border security that permits the use of blockades and “police apparatus and weapons” against those who cross its borders illegally. China has been in a protracted border stand-off with India, with both sides building up their military presence following a deadly clash in the Galwan valley in June last year. China shares a land border with 14 countries – North Korea, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam and India – and is also worried about the risk of terrorists crossing into Xinjiang from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and of Covid-19 spilling over from its neighbours.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3153522/china-passes-law-strengthen-border-security-amid-ongoing>

### **Why Chinese military flights towards Taiwan prefer southwestern zone**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 24, 2021

The PLA air force’s frequent flights towards Taiwan focus on the southwest of the self-ruled island’s air defence identification zone because of air control commitments and the geography of Taiwan’s central mountain range. A record number of PLA aircraft have flown more than 450 sorties across the Taiwan Strait since January – mostly towards the island’s southwest – with 149 flights in the first four days of October, compared to 380 in the whole of last year.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3153449/why-chinese-military-flights-towards-taiwan-prefer-southwestern>

### **Chinese scientists build anti-satellite weapon that can cause explosion inside exhaust**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, October 22, 2021

A team of Chinese military researchers say they have built and tested an anti-satellite robotic device that can place a small pack of explosives into a probe’s exhaust nozzle. Rather than blowing the satellite into pieces, the melt-cast explosive can produce a “time-controlled, steady explosion”, Professor Sun Yunzhong and colleagues from the Hunan Defence Industry Polytechnic in Xiangtan wrote in a paper published in the domestic journal Electronic Technology & Software Engineering last month. The device could stay inside the satellite for an extended period by using a locking mechanism driven by an electric motor. If needed, the process can be reversed to separate it from the target.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3153174/chinese-scientists-build-anti-satellite-weapon-can-cause>

**China warns against AUKUS, to make meetings routine with Pacific Island countries, enhancing ties to higher level**

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, October 21, 2021

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned of nuclear spill from the tripartite alliance AUKUS, during a meeting with foreign ministers of Pacific Island countries. Speaking at the first China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting by video link, Wang pointed out that AUKUS will jeopardize the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, introduce an arms race and damage regional peace and stability. China is willing to work with the Pacific Island countries to safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation system with the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty as the cornerstone and the nuclear free zone in South Pacific.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1236961.shtml>

**China, Bhutan sign MoU on boundary negotiations with "peace" as keyword**

Li Jiayao

China Military News, October 20, 2021

On October 14, 2021, the Chinese Government Representative and Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghao and the Bhutanese Government Representative and Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a Three-Step Roadmap for Expediting the China-Bhutan Boundary Negotiation in Beijing and Thimphu via video link. Wu Jianghao said the MoU signed today will make a meaningful contribution to speeding up the negotiation on demarcation and promoting the process of establishing diplomatic ties between the two countries. The signing of the MoU indicates that the two countries both wish to further normalize bilateral relations. Bhutan is the only neighbor that hasn't established diplomatic ties with China yet, but the two countries have always maintained friendly exchanges.

[http://www.81.cn/jwywpd/2021-10/20/content\\_10101101.htm](http://www.81.cn/jwywpd/2021-10/20/content_10101101.htm)

**World could maintain peace if US stops cornering China, Russia: Global Times editorial**

Global Times, October 19, 2021

Various US officials have accused China of developing "hypersonic missile" technology, such as the secretary of defence, US envoy to the UN-sponsored Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, White House officials, and State Department spokesperson. But the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the so-called "hypersonic missile" test in some Western media's reports was actually "a routine test of spacecraft to verify technology of the craft's reusability."

China is not on par with the US in terms of strategic nuclear power. The weapons the two countries have are not of equal number: The nuclear warheads of both sides are not even close

on scale. On the other hand, Washington has been aggressively building up its defence system since its "Star Wars" program. It has increased the deployment and connectivity of its facilities aimed at China and Russia. But facing these two great powers, there will be endless loopholes in the "absolute security" the US pursues.

The sense of crisis Washington has experienced recently is caused by hypersonic weapon technology because the current US missile defence system will not be able to deal with such a revolutionary technology. This means Washington's defence system may become useless. The US fears that the nuclear power pattern between major powers might change once China and Russia possess this new missile technology. So the US has been keeping a close eye on any Chinese move that might be related to the technology.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1236741.shtml>

### **China demands US explain USS Connecticut's collision with 'unknown object,' questions intentions behind cover-up**

Global Times, October 19, 2021

On October 8, media reported that a US nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Connecticut, struck an underwater object in the South China Sea on October 2. China is seriously concerned about the USS Connecticut's collision with an "unknown object" in international waters in the South China Sea, and said the US is obligated to explain the incident in detail, China's Ministry of National Défense stated.

The US Navy confirmed the accident by saying it is unclear what the Seawolf-class submarine may have hit while it was submerged, adding that the submarine remains in a safe and stable condition, with its nuclear propulsion plant and spaces unaffected, but it did not explain the details of the accident. Tan pointed out that the US Navy has deliberately delayed and concealed the details of the accident.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1236732.shtml>

### **China-Russia coordination helps break AUKUS encirclement**

Wei Dongxu

Global Times, October 19, 2021

The China-Russia joint naval drill that kicked off in the Sea of Japan can counter AUKUS, the newly formed trilateral security partnership between the US, the UK and Australia. It will further help Beijing and Moscow break through the US-led security containment. China has a strong and reliable partner in the Western Pacific: Russia.

This time, China has sent its most advanced 10,000-ton-class Type 055 large destroyer, while Russia dispatched the main force of its Pacific Fleet. This demonstrates that China and Russia attach great importance to defence cooperation. In addition, the joint anti-submarine operations between China and Russia are also worth people's attention. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy have sent multiple types of main battle equipment to the drills, including the fixed-wing anti-submarine patrol aircraft.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1236726.shtml>

### **China to promote national border and coastal defence infrastructure construction**

Wang Xinjuan

China Military News, October 19, 2021

A meeting aims to promote national border and coastal defence infrastructure construction was held in China's Guangzhou from October 14 to 15. Chinese State Councilor and Défense Minister General Wei Fenghe, as well as heads of member units of the State Committee of Border and Coastal Défense, and leaders of military and civilian departments from China's border and coastal provinces, attended the meeting. The meeting emphasized on accelerating the construction of national border and coastal defence infrastructure, focusing on serving combat readiness and improving the level of scientific and technological border control, in a bid to build a strong and modern border and coastal defence.

[http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2021-10/18/content\\_10100580.htm](http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2021-10/18/content_10100580.htm)

### **China-Russia naval exercise enters stage of joint anti-submarine drills**

Li Wei

China Military News, October 19, 2021

The China-Russia joint naval exercise, Joint Sea 2021, conducted round-the-clock anti-submarine drills in waters near Russia's Peter the Great Bay from October 16 to 17, local time, which was one of the highlights in this joint military event. The Chinese and Russian navies sent multiple types of main battle equipment respectively to the drills. In addition to the surging winds and waves on the day of the exercise, the submarine searching operation this year was full of expectation. As the drills kicked off, the command post of the Chinese side guided the fixed-wing anti-submarine patrol aircraft through the real-time command system to deploy a number of sonar buoys, which formed a large submarine searching zone in the designated sea area. Then, upon obtaining information on the suspected "enemy submarines", the commander issued an anti-submarine combat order to the warship formation.

[http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2021-10/18/content\\_10100582.htm](http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2021-10/18/content_10100582.htm)

### **What will US-Canada warships transit slammed by China mean for peace in the Taiwan Strait?**

Kristin Huang and Rachel Zhang

South China Morning Post, October 19, 2021

US President Joe Biden's coordinated approach with allies to counter China has seen America and Canada send warships through the Taiwan Strait for the first time, in a joint mission described by an analyst as a "breakthrough" for Washington.

The move by the US and Canadian navies has prompted concerns about a possible clash in the geopolitically sensitive waterway, with the Chinese military condemning the transit as "seriously jeopardising peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait". The operation could also dampen hopes of improved relations between China and Canada following the recent release



of Huawei Technologies executive Meng Wanzhou after nearly three years under house arrest.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3152760/what-will-us-canada-warships-transit-slammed-china-mean-peace>

### **China's military tests nurses in nighttime island landing simulation**

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, October 19, 2021

The People's Liberation Army is training military nurses using a boat simulator to prepare them for a combat situation involving an island landing. More than 300 nurses from an unspecified military hospital took part in the first round of training from July 2020 to February this year – the first time the PLA has conducted this type of simulation exercise for nurses. Its Joint Logistics Support Force said the nurses had to administer medication via an intravenous line in near-complete darkness in a simulation of a nighttime combat scenario at sea, with waves of 2 metres (6.5ft).

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3152761/chinas-military-tests-nurses-nighttime-island-landing>

### **China sends in 100 rocket launchers to fortify border with India**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 19, 2021

China has deployed more than 100 advanced long-range rocket launchers to its high-altitude borders with India, according to a source close to the Chinese military, as the two sides remain deadlocked over their protracted boundary disputes. The source said the People's Liberation Army was ramping up defences in preparation for the Himalayan winter and in response to the Indian Army's deployment of three regiments with M777 ultra-light howitzers along the contested Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. "The PLA has deployed more than 100 PCL-181 light, truck-mounted howitzers along borders with India. The firing range of this Chinese-developed launcher is double that of the M777," the source said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3152907/china-sends-100-rocket-launchers-fortify-border-india>