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Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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China's Shenzhou-13 astronauts to conduct extravehicular activities

Huaxia

Xinhua, November 07, 2021

China's Shenzhou-13 astronauts will conduct extravehicular activities (EVAs) for the first time in the next few days, announced the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) on November 05. Three Chinese astronauts have been working and living in orbit for 21 days since they were sent into space onboard the Shenzhou-13 spaceship and entered the combination of the country's space station on Oct. 16, said the agency. The three astronauts are currently in good condition, and the combination is operating stably. All conditions for the crew's first EVAs are in place, the CMSA said. The combination of China's space station is formed by the Shenzhou-13 spaceship, Tianhe core module, and cargo crafts Tianzhou-2 and Tianzhou-3.

http://www.news.cn/english/2021-11/05/c_1310292649.htm

Wang Yi welcomes Iran's resumption of JCPOA nuclear negotiations by late Nov

Global Times, November 07, 2021

Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi welcomed Iran's decision to resume the JCPOA nuclear negotiations by late November in Vienna, noting that it revealed a positive position of Iran to reinstate its commitment.

In the phone call between Wang and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Wang urged all relevant parties to strengthen coordination and jointly promote the negotiations in the right direction. China was in support of enhanced cooperation between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which would create a good atmosphere for resumption of the negotiation, Wang said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1238336.shtml>

MND: China firmly opposes U.S. report on Chinese military and security developments

Huang Panyue

China Military News, November 07, 2021

“China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to the report on Chinese military and security developments released by the U.S. Department of Defences,” said Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National defence (MND) on November 5, 2021. The U.S. Department of defence released its annual report on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China (PRC) on November 4, 2021.

The report disregarded facts and was fraught with bias, made false remarks on China's national defence policy and military strategy, and fabricated the so-called "Chinese military threat", said Senior Colonel Wu Qian. The report also made groundless accusations against China's nuclear capability development, and interfered in China's internal affairs involving Taiwan and other issues, Wu said. “China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to the report, and has made solemn representations to the U.S. side,” said Wu.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-11/07/content_10105591.htm

US calls space a wild west. China says policing it normalises warfare

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, November 07, 2021

China is likely to shrug off the US' call for rules governing space behaviour because Beijing would view that as legitimising space militarisation, a Chinese expert said, as the nations' rivalry in the domain intensifies.

It was this week revealed that in July a US surveillance satellite approached a Chinese satellite in orbit, and the latter quickly manoeuvred to escape being shadowed. This incident was another case of the frequent attempts at spying and counter-espionage in space among the United States, Russia and China, and added to concerns that risks of disastrous collisions in space were growing in line with the space race itself.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3155071/us-calls-space-wild-west-china-says-policing-it-normalises>

China's fourth Type 055 destroyer to enter service next month, sources say

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 06, 2021

China's fourth Type 055 warship – its most advanced and largest destroyer – is expected to go into service next month, with more to follow in the next two years, according to sources. The stealth-guided missile destroyer will be the latest addition to a rapidly expanding navy that is now the world's biggest, and military experts say it will boost combat strength on the high seas. "The PLA Navy is likely to formally take over the Yanan [the fourth Type 055] in December," said a source close to the People's Liberation Army, who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3154842/chinas-fourth-type-055-destroyer-enter-service-next-month>

China building up nuclear arsenal 'in response to US pressure'

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, November 04, 2021

China is focusing on developing more submarine-launched and ground-based nuclear missiles amid increasing pressure from the United States, Chinese defence analysts have said. A report released by the Pentagon on Wednesday said China had expanded its nuclear capacity on land, sea and air, estimating the country could have up to 700 deliverable nuclear warheads by 2027 and at least 1,000 by 2030. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the report

had “disregarded facts and was full of prejudice and bias” that aimed at “stirring up the China nuclear threat theory”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3154894/china-building-nuclear-arsenal-response-us-pressure>

PLA Army troops assemble pontoon bridge in waters off southern Fujian

Chen Zhuo

China Military News, November 04, 2021

Recently, a pontoon bridge element of an engineering and chemical defence brigade under the PLA 73rd Group Army mobilized over 100 vehicles and equipment to carry out drills under the scenario of "a bridge was destructed by enemy fire strike and thus the adjacent troops were blocked" in unfamiliar waters off southern Fujian Province, southeast China. This exercise aimed to improve the troops' support capability during river crossing operations. The element managed to avoid obstacles and artillery blockades in various formations, and succeeded in laying a pontoon bridge with camouflage, across which more than 20 vehicles and equipment passed at a time.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-11/04/content_10104976.htm

US' report on China's nuclear warheads is only speculative: Global Times editorial

Global Times, November 04, 2021

The US Department of Defence released its annual report on military and security developments involving China. One of the claims in the report has attracted great attention. It notes that the accelerating pace of the China's nuclear expansion may enable the country to have up to 700 deliverable nuclear warheads by 2027 and China likely intends to have at least 1,000 warheads by 2030, 2.5 times more than estimated a year ago. According to the report, China "is investing in, and expanding, the number of its land-, sea-, and air-based nuclear delivery platforms and constructing the infrastructure necessary to support this major expansion of its nuclear forces" and is building a "nuclear triad."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1238102.shtml>

Chinese FM urges Australia to correct irresponsible moves, fulfill its nuclear non-proliferation obligations

Global Times, November 04, 2021

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin commented on Australia's signing of the AUKUS deal with the US and the UK, saying it is an "extremely irresponsible" move that create risks and undermine regional peace and stability, urging Australia to abandon the Cold War mentality and fulfill its international nuclear non-proliferation obligations.

The spokesperson urged the Australian government to correct its mistakes, abandon the Cold War mentality, conscientiously fulfill its international nuclear non-proliferation obligations, earnestly safeguard regional peace and stability and give a responsible answer to the international community. Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned of

nuclear spill from the tripartite alliance AUKUS in late October during a meeting with foreign ministers of Pacific Island countries.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1238189.shtml>

China launches remote-sensing satellite group

Huaxia

Xinhua, November 03, 2021

China launched a group of remote-sensing satellites from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on November 03. The second group of the Yaogan-32 satellite family was launched by a Long March-2C rocket with an attached upper stage at 3:43 p.m. (Beijing Time) and entered the planned orbit. This was the 394th mission of the Long March rocket series.

http://www.news.cn/english/2021-11/03/c_1310287838.htm

Oxygen therapy chamber put into use at border outposts in Xinjiang

Chen Zhuo

China Military News, November 03, 2021

A type of balanced-air-pressure chamber of oxygen therapy was put it into use at the Tianwendian border defence company under the Hotan military sub-command of the PLA Xinjiang Military Command in mid-October. The oxygen therapy chamber can seat eight plateau border guards at one time and enable them to breathe oxygen under normal atmospheric pressure or slightly higher pressure when entering into the chamber, which helps eliminate the adverse reaction because of hypoxia and low air pressure on plateau, and prevents mountain sickness.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-11/03/content_10104622.htm

Xi presents China's top science award to aircraft designer, nuclear expert

Xinhua, November 03, 2021

President Xi Jinping on Wednesday presented China's top science award to aircraft designer Gu Songfen and nuclear expert Wang Dazhong for their outstanding contributions to scientific and technological innovation. Gu Songfen is an aircraft designer at the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, Ltd., the nation's leading aircraft maker. Born in 1930, Gu is an academician at both the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Chinese Academy of Engineering. Wang Dazhong, born in 1935, is an internationally reputed nuclear scientist.

http://www.news.cn/english/2021-11/03/c_1310288390.htm

South China Sea: Beijing says 'irresponsible' US hasn't clearly explained submarine incident

Teddy Ng, Minnie Chan and Catherine Wong

South China Morning Post, November 02, 2021

Beijing said a US probe into an incident involving a nuclear-powered submarine in the South China Sea last month did not ease concerns over America's military activities in the region, and that Washington had failed to disclose exactly where it happened and what the vessel was doing there. The US Navy on Monday said the Seawolf-class submarine USS Connecticut "grounded on an uncharted seamount while operating in international waters in the Indo-Pacific region", but did not say what caused the incident on October 2.

On November 02, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the US explanation was far from satisfactory. "Nearly a month after the incident, the US said the submarine hit an unknown sea mountain and blurred the location of the incident by saying it happened in international waters in the Indo-Pacific," Wang said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3154587/south-china-sea-beijing-says-irresponsible-us-hasnt-clearly>

US spy planes over South China Sea likely surveyed nuclear fallout of sub collision, observers say

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, November 02, 2021

US special-purpose aircraft the Constant Phoenix may have been in the South China Sea region to examine radioactive material, military experts said, after a Beijing-based think tank cited satellite images to report five American reconnaissance planes operating in the area at the weekend.

This comes a month after a US Navy nuclear submarine hit an unidentified object while submerged in international waters in the South China Sea, prompting China to express serious concerns about a "nuclear leak". The primary mission for the Boeing WC-135 Constant Phoenix, nicknamed "nuke sniffer", is collecting atmospheric samples to detect and identify radioactive debris from nuclear explosions.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3154476/us-spy-planes-over-south-china-sea-likely-surveyed-nuclear>

US ships and planes conducted 2,000 spying missions aimed at China this year, says military analyst

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, November 02, 2021

United States warships and planes carried out over 2,000 close spying operations aimed at China this year, according to Cao Yanzhong, a researcher with the People's Liberation Army Academy of Military Science. The targets of these missions include Chinese controlled islands and reefs in the South China Sea, as well as the coastal area of the Chinese mainland, according to Cao. "The high frequency of such close reconnaissance endangers China's sovereign security and heightens regional tensions, which will inevitably trigger firm opposition from China and undoubtedly increase the risk of gunfire," Cao told a panel at the 10th Xiangshan forum, an annual Chinese military conference that was held via video link.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3153916/us-ships-and-planes-conducted-2000-spying-missions-aimed-china>

Chinese satellite hints at space warfare prowess by dodging US surveillance

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, November 02, 2021

A Chinese satellite has used a manoeuvre to avoid being followed by a spying US satellite, hinting at its capability in potential space warfare. But some defence analysts said the scenario was not new and the incident should not be seen as escalating the rivalry between China and the United States in space. "It is not difficult to monitor satellites," said Chinese military commentator Song Zhongping. "The US, Russia and China are all able to monitor each other's satellites in orbit. But the US will certainly plan its space infrastructure through monitoring the satellites of China and Russia."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3154496/chinese-satellite-shows-space-warfare-prowess-dodging-us>

US investigation on submarine collision 'untransparent'

Guo Yuandan and Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, November 02, 2021

The "unknown object" the USS Connecticut nuclear-powered submarine collided with in the South China Sea in early October turns out to be an uncharted seamount, the US 7th Fleet announced on November 01.

Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the US statement intentionally equivocated the location of the accident as "international waters in the Indo-Pacific region," and did not give clear explanations on questions of serious concern, like the purpose of the submarine's voyage, the exact location of the accident, and whether it suffered a nuclear leakage in other countries' exclusive economic zones or even territorial waters, and whether it damaged the maritime environment.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1237901.shtml>

US should announce 'no first use of nuclear weapons,' with no strings attached: Global Times editorial

Global Times, November 01, 2021

The US plans to finalize the Nuclear Posture Review as soon at the end of this year. It is reported that the Biden administration is discussing whether it should put some limits on the use of nuclear weapons, such as the announcement of "no first use of nuclear weapons," or a declaration of "sole purpose" that means nuclear weapons can be used under certain circumstances, including responding to a nuclear attack. According to media reports, US allies, including the UK, Germany, France, Japan and Australia, have strongly opposed the US' adjustment to its nuclear policies. They believe such a move will weaken the US' protection of

its allies. This possible adjustment also means the US would offer a courtesy to China and Russia.

China has announced the "no first use" nuclear policy at a very early phase. It has adhered to this policy since the first day it owned nuclear weapons. Nuclear posture is the thorniest security dilemma - particularly issues such as the number of nuclear warheads and anti-missiles. If the US can take the lead in restricting the use of nuclear weapons in this era, it is likely to expand the route undertaken by China in the past and push forward a new period of nuclear security.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1237769.shtml>

Exclusive: NGO with overseas backing punished for deploying monitoring network covering East, South China Sea, with 22 sites close to Chinese navy

Fan Lingzhi

Global Times, November 01, 2021

2021 is the seventh anniversary of the implementation of China's anti-espionage laws. Over the past seven years, under the national security law, a number of pieces of legislation have been unveiled including the cybersecurity law, nuclear security law, biosecurity law and data security law, providing a firm legal basis for safeguarding China's national security across a number of domains.

A non-profit organization focused on the oceans, which has received funding from overseas non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in recent years, has set up marine debris surveillance locations in coastal cities in China to collect sensitive data such as marine monitoring data which is reported back overseas. Before it was held accountable by Chinese security authorities in 2021, the organization has set up a monitoring network covering the country's northern to southern coastal lines and the South China Sea, the East China Sea, the Yellow Sea and the Bohai Sea. Among them, 22 monitoring points were close to the military targets, which directly threatened China's military security.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1237692.shtml>

Plateau troops equipped with portable individual oxygen production and supply devices

Wu Duoqi and Sun Xingwei

China Military News, November 01, 2021

Since last year, the Logistic Support Department of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) has successively distributed individual oxygen supply equipment such as portable oxygen cylinders, portable oxygen generators, and solid oxygen generators to the plateau border troops of the Chinese PLA.

Now, these troops' oxygen production and supply has gradually become portable and individualized. Oxygen supply for plateau troops involves daily consumption plus health-care, and wartime emergency use plus medical treatment. The PLA Logistic Support Department has successively carried out relevant projects for troops stationed in areas 3,000 meters above sea level since 2013, having played a positive role in enhancing those troops' combat effectiveness,

cohesion and supportiveness.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-11/01/content_10104077.htm

China warns US on Taiwan question in Rome amid tensions

Yang Sheng and Cui Fandi

Global Times, November 01, 2021

Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday on the sidelines of the G20 leaders summit in Rome, Italy, the first face-to-face meeting between the top diplomats of the two countries after Blinken made a provocative statement challenging China's sovereignty on the Taiwan question, saying the US will support the island's secessionist authorities "robust" participation in the UN system.

According to the website of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Wang pointed out at the meeting that the US has repeatedly claimed it is China's changing status quo that caused recent tensions in the Taiwan Straits, which is totally untrue and a serious misrepresentation to the international community. "The Taiwan question is the most sensitive matter between China and the US, and if the question is mishandled, it would bring subversive damage to overall China-US ties," Wang said, stressing that the real status quo of the Taiwan question is that there is only one China, and Taiwan is a part of China, and the mainland and Taiwan belong to one and the same country.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1237779.shtml>

Chinese, Indonesia FMs voice serious concerns over AUKUS nuclear submarine deal

Huaxia

Xinhua, October 30, 2021

Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Indonesia counterpart Retno Marsudi met here Friday, vowing to enhance bilateral ties and voicing serious concerns over the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal. Wang, who is visiting Italy and is to participate in the Group of 20 (G20) meetings, hailed the China-Indonesia relations, saying bilateral ties are developing smoothly under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state.

http://www.news.cn/english/asiapacific/2021-10/30/c_1310279249.htm

Chinese military may have an edge over US on artificial intelligence research, report warns

Linda Lew

South China Morning Post, October 29, 2021

The Chinese military could be spending as much or even more than the United States on artificial intelligence (AI) according to a new report. The analysis, by the Centre for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET) at Georgetown University in Washington, also found just 22 of the 273 companies known to supply the People's Liberation Army (PLA) with AI

equipment were not subject to US Commerce Department restrictions – meaning they may be able to access US technology and pass it on to the PLA.

Given the secrecy surrounding the issue, it is difficult to calculate exactly how much each side spends on AI, but the researchers looked at more than 18,300 publicly available contracts awarded by the PLA and state-owned defence companies last year, and estimated that Chinese military spending on AI-related technologies amounted to between US\$1.6 billion and \$2.7 billion each year.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3154242/chinese-military-may-have-edge-over-us-artificial-intelligence?module=perpetual_scroll&pgtype=article&campaign=3154242

China's stealth fighter built for two prepares for maiden flight in world first

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 29, 2021

The world's first twin-seater stealth fighter could make its maiden flight in less than a fortnight, as China prepares to show off its latest home-grown breakthrough in military technology. Pictures and video clips have emerged on mainland social media platforms in recent days to reveal a variant of the J-20 Weilong – which means Mighty Dragon – taxiing on a flight test airfield at Chengdu Aerospace Corporation's plant in the southwestern province of Sichuan.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3154111/chinas-stealth-fighter-built-two-prepares-maiden-flight-world>