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US eyes ‘nuclear freedom’ by hyping China’s ‘nuclear threat’: Global Times editorial

Global Times, 06 May 2022

Charles Richard, the head of US Strategic Command, which oversees the nuclear arsenal, warned Congress Wednesday that Washington faces a "heightened nuclear deterrence risk when it comes to Russia and China," claiming that China is "watching the war in Ukraine closely and will likely use nuclear coercion to their advantage in the future." He also warned the lawmakers that the US is facing "a crisis deterrence dynamic right now that we have only seen a few times in our nation's history." Sensationalizing China's "nuclear threat" to justify actual US nuclear expansion has become a familiar trick of Washington. Last month, Richard told lawmakers at a closed-door hearing that China's "breathtaking expansion" of its strategic and nuclear arsenal is a quickly escalating risk for the US. In March, he said he is "very concerned" about potential "cooperative aggression" from China and Russia. If the efforts are to expand the budget for the department he's in charge, Richard made it - according to the Biden administration's recently submitted fiscal year 2023 defense budget, total spending on nuclear weapons and systems research and procurement grew to \$34.4 billion from \$27.7 billion for fiscal year 2022.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202205/1264929.shtml>

All six generators of Hongyanhe nuclear power plant come into operation in Northeast China

Global Times, 04 May 2022

The sixth generator of the Hongyanhe nuclear power plant in Liaoning Province - the last unit of the first nuclear power plant in Northeast China - was successfully connected to the grid, paving way for the unit to enter commercial operation as scheduled within 2022, Hongyanhe Nuclear Power said. The step indicates that the sixth unit has the capacity to generate electricity. All major indexes linked to the unit are normal and up to the standards, with the unit also running quite well during the grid connecting process, and a series of tests will be carried out to further demonstrate the generator meet conditions for entering commercial operation. Construction of the fifth and sixth units - the second phase of Hongyanhe nuclear power plant project - began in 2015, and the fifth unit entered production in July 2021. Both of the units adopt ACPR 1000 technology that includes the major technical advances and safety features of the third-generation nuclear power generators.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202205/1264777.shtml>

PLA holds joint drills east, southwest to Taiwan island, ‘sends warning to secessionists, external forces’

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, 09 May 2022

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) recently held a large-scale joint exercise surrounding the island of Taiwan from both sides, a move that experts said on Monday demonstrated and further boosted the PLA's high level of combat preparedness over Taiwan and sent a strong warning to "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces and external interference forces at a time when those forces repeatedly made wrong remarks and actions on the Taiwan question. By featuring a powerful aircraft carrier group east of the island, a large number of different types of warplanes and additional warships west of the island, plus conventional missiles, the PLA exercise was a partial rehearsal of a possible reunification-by-force operation, including the neutralization of the military potential of secessionist forces on the island and the cutting off of possible military intervention from countries like the US and Japan, analysts said. The PLA Eastern Theater Command organized maritime, aerial, conventional missile and other forces and carried out a real force exercise in and above waters east and southwest of the island of Taiwan from Friday to Sunday to further test and enhance the joint operational capabilities of multiple military services and branches, the PLA Daily, the official newspaper of the PLA, reported in a front page story on Monday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202205/1265116.shtml>

Aircraft carrier Liaoning hosts fighter jet drills in Philippine Sea, ‘displays confidence’

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, 05 May 2022

The aircraft carrier *Liaoning* of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy hosted fighter jet drills in the Philippine Sea on Tuesday, Japan's defense ministry said on Wednesday, soon after the PLA Navy announced the carrier group sailed into the West Pacific for a routine, realistic combat far sea training mission. By hosting fighter jet drills right in front of monitoring by Japanese and potentially US forces, the PLA Navy showed its confidence amid its rising capabilities, experts said on Thursday. A total of seven PLA Navy vessels, namely the aircraft carrier Liaoning, the Type 052D guided missile destroyers Xining, Urumqi and Chengdu, the Type 052C guided missile destroyer Zhengzhou, the Type 054A guided missile frigate Xiangtan and the Type 901 comprehensive supply ship Hulunhu, were spotted on Tuesday sailing in the Philippines Sea, south to Japan and east to the island of Taiwan, according to a press release by Japan's Ministry of Defense Joint Staff on Wednesday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202205/1264832.shtml>

China and ROK share similar positions on Korean Peninsula issue amid rising tensions: Chinese special envoy

Global Times, 08 May 2022

China and the Republic of Korea share similar positions and broad common interests on the Korean Peninsula issue and China-ROK relations have always been treated as a priority in China's overall foreign policy, said China's special representative on Korean Peninsula Affairs Liu Xiaoming. Liu, who paid a visit to Seoul from Tuesday to Friday, said that China-ROK relations have always been treated as a priority in China's overall foreign policy. Liu said that China has always supported the ROK and North Korea in improving their relations and pursuing reconciliation and cooperation. Liu also stressed that China will strengthen communication and coordination with the ROK to jointly work for peace and stability on the Peninsula and promote the political settlement process of the Peninsula issue. According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Liu met with ROK Minister of Unification Lee In-young, First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun, Vice Minister of Unification Choi Young Joon, and Second Deputy Director of the National Security Office Kim Hyung-jin. He also met the main aides of the President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol on unification, foreign and security affairs.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202205/1265029.shtml>

Japanese radioactive waste puts ocean at risk

Global Times, 08 May 2022

Japan's plan to dump radioactive waste water from its crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean will endanger marine products and contaminate the ocean further, a South Korean green activist has said. "Eleven years has passed since the Fukushima power plant accident occurred, but its radioactive contamination has not been mitigated much," Ahn Jae-hun, energy and climate change director at the Korea Federation for Environment Movement, a green advocacy group in Seoul, told the Xinhua News Agency recently. The group's analysis of the 2021 data from Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare showed that cesium was detected from 8 percent of Japanese fishery products.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202205/1265042.shtml>

U.S. is biggest source of nuclear threat in world: Chinese FM spokesperson

Xinhua, 06 May 2022

The United States is the biggest source of nuclear threat in the world, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said, calling on it to stop the trick of thief calling "stop the thief."

<https://english.news.cn/20220506/ebabcf2481d945d1bd3132c7da4eb49b/c.html>

China's cargo craft docks with space station combination

Xinhua, 10 May 2022

China's cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-4, carrying supplies for the upcoming Shenzhou-14 crewed mission, successfully docked with the combination of the space station core module Tianhe and the Tianzhou-3 cargo craft on Tuesday, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). At 8:54 a.m. (Beijing Time), Tianzhou-4 completed a computer-orchestrated rendezvous and docking at the rear docking port of Tianhe, the CMSA said. The CMSA declared the launch a complete success.

<https://english.news.cn/20220510/7585f7d69cac492fadf90f94c91da9ab/c.html>

China launches cargo craft for space station supplies

Xinhua, 10 May 2022

China launched cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-4 on Tuesday to deliver supplies for its space station which is scheduled to wrap up construction this year. The Long March-7 Y5 rocket, carrying Tianzhou-4, blasted off at 1:56 a.m. (Beijing Time) from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern island province of Hainan, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). After around 10 minutes, Tianzhou-4 separated from the rocket and entered its designated orbit. At 2:23 a.m., the solar panels of the cargo craft unfolded and began working. The CMSA declared the launch a complete success. This is the 22nd mission of China's manned space programs and the 420th mission of the Long March rocket series.

<https://english.news.cn/20220510/61c1589aa75f465fa06310f42e88c056/c.html>

Japan delegation visits Taiwan, 'attempt to rope in island delusional'

Xu Keyue

Global Times, 04 May 2022

Tokyo is stepping up its plot to collude with the separatist authority on the island of Taiwan in an attempt to form an anti-mainland clique under the so-called Indo-Pacific strategy with its latest move of sending a delegation from the Youth Division of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to the island on Tuesday. The division, regarded as an important platform for exchanges between Taiwan island and Japan and also a talent pool for party leaders, sent the delegation led by the division's head Masanobu Ogura, a member of the Japanese House of Representatives, to Taiwan region for a five-day visit, the division's first Taiwan trip since the COVID-19 pandemic started, Taiwan media reported. Many of the division's previous directors went on to serve as high-ranking Japanese government officials such as Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and former prime minister Shinzo Abe, Taiwan regional foreign affairs authority said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202205/1264830.shtml>

Xi promotes exploration of outer space, advances global cooperation

Xinhua, 04 May 2022

Ahead of China's Youth Day, Chinese President Xi Jinping wrote back to a youth team working on space station construction, encouraging them to contribute more to the exploration of space and advance aerospace science and technology through innovation. Over the past years, Xi has been striving to promote the development of China's space industry and pledged to deepen cooperation with other countries in this field, which has yielded fruitful outcomes.

<https://english.news.cn/20220504/22e3c04236a742fdb9eddf66c05038a2/c.html>

Flagship Chinese space telescope to unravel cosmic mysteries

Xinhua, 05 May 2022

China's flagship telescope, slated to be launched at the end of 2023, is expected to provide humankind with fresh knowledge about distant galaxies, mysterious dark matter and dark energy, and the past and future evolutions of the universe. Chinese Survey Space Telescope, also known as the Chinese Space Station Telescope (CSST) and Xuntian Space Telescope, is a space-based optical observatory for astronomers to carry out sky surveys, capturing a general map or images of the sky. The CSST is a bus-sized facility with a length equal to that of a three-storied building. It has an aperture of two meters, a bit smaller than the Hubble Space Telescope, but its field of view is 350 times larger than Hubble in area, said Liu Jifeng, deputy director of National Astronomical Observatories Of China (NAOC), in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

<https://english.news.cn/20220505/085b587357ae40e08f0b9279a6c850d2/c.html>

Special operations soldiers in parachute training

China Military Online, 05 May 2022

A special operations brigade under the PLA 74th Group Army held a joint parachute training exercise with a unit of the air force in unfamiliar areas.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-05/05/content_10152322.htm

Naval task groups carry out combat training exercises

China Military Online, 07 May 2022

Several ship formations of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy carried out high-intensity combat training exercises in waters of the Yellow Sea, East China Sea, and South China Sea respectively, in a bid to test the coordination among vessels. In the Yellow Sea, a naval task group consisting of frigates Wuhai (Hull 540) and Pingdingshan (Hull 602) from a

naval frigate flotilla under the PLA Northern Theater Command carried out a 5-day round-the-clock drill. In the waters of the South China Sea, the task group consisting of frigates Mianyang (Hull 528), Luoyang (Hull 527) and Liupanshui (Hull 514) from a naval flotilla under the PLA Southern Theater Command encountered airborne "enemies" upon its arrival at the training area. In the East China Sea, a naval task group consisting of destroyer Zibo (Hull 156), destroyer Ji'nan (Hull 105), frigates Binzhou (Hull 515) and Anyang (Hull 599) from a destroyer flotilla under the PLA Eastern Theater Command encountered "enemy" just after leaving the foggy area.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-05/07/content_10153062.htm

PLAN aircraft carrier battle group trains in west Pacific

China Military Online, 03 May 2022

Recently, a Chinese naval aircraft carrier battle group headed by the aircraft carrier Liaoning conducted open-sea combat training in the waters of the western Pacific Ocean, according to Senior Captain Gao Xiucheng, the spokesperson for the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN). The spokesperson said that it was a routine training exercise within the annual work plan of the PLAN and designed to improve the aircraft carrier battle group's ability to fulfill its missions. The training complied with relevant international law and practice, not targeting any party, Gao added.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-05/03/content_10152032.htm

Soldiers train with newly commissioned bridge systems

Li Zhiqiang, Zhang Xuechen and Zhou Yi

China Military Online, 06 May 2022

Soldiers assigned to a bridge company of an engineer regiment under the PLA Xinjiang Military Command built a temporary bridge with three newly commissioned vehicle-mounted Rapidly Emplaced Bridge Systems (REBSs) against extreme winds during a bridge-building training exercise, which effectively improved the troops' combat support capability.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-05/06/content_10152699.htm

Chinese tourist town looks for lift-off with space tourism trend

Luna Sun

South China Morning Post, 01 May 2022

Local authorities have big ambitions to brand the Wenchang Space Launch Site as China's equivalent to Nasa's Kennedy Space Centre Visitor Complex. But making it a reality is a long

way off as the tourist industry in Longlou, which is home to the launchpad, lacks support and a plan for year-round development.

<https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3176009/chinese-tourist-town-looks-lift-space-tourism-trend>

Could the US military dominate space via Starlink's satellite network?

Jack Lau

South China Morning Post, 06 May 2022

The international community should be on high alert for the US Armed Forces' potential domination of outer space via SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet system, the official newspaper of the Chinese military said on Thursday. "The Starlink project has decided to increase the planned 12,000 satellites to 42,000, underscoring that it is widely distributed, flexible and could be reconfigured quickly," a PLA Daily commentary said. "The ambition to militarise Starlink and its barbaric expansion deserve high alert from the international community." Starlink could allow the US military to gain 'situational awareness while keeping adversaries in the dark'.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3176641/could-us-military-dominate-space-starlinks-satellite-network>

Chinese radar 'is watching missile threats from Korean peninsula and Japan'

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, 02 May 2022

A large radar in eastern China that was captured on a satellite camera is intended to monitor missile activity in northeast Asia, a Chinese military source has confirmed. An image of the radar was taken by commercial satellite imagery company Maxar Technologies in February and published on Google Earth. The picture's geolocation information shows it is on a mountain top in Yiyuan county in Shandong, an eastern province that faces the Korean peninsula across the Yellow Sea. The satellite pictures show that the radar is pointing towards the northeast and was built sometime after November 2019. Phased array radars are an integral part of China's missile warning and space tracking network. They are computer-controlled systems that scan the horizon with waves of radio beams without needing to rotate the antenna and can be used to track multiple targets over a long range. The new radar is built next to one that faces south and can monitor missile activities from Taiwan. The US website Defence News said that Google Earth images suggested the older radar had been built around 2013 or 2014.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3176163/chinese-radar-watching-missile-threats-korean-peninsula-and>

John Lee confirmed as Hong Kong's next leader with 1,416 votes, vows to recruit talent

South China Morning post, 08 May 2022

John Lee Ka-chiu, the sole candidate for Hong Kong's leadership election, has been confirmed as the city's next chief executive after formally announcing his intention to run less than a month ago, becoming the first former police officer in the top job. Lee secured 1,416 of 1,428 valid votes cast on Sunday, amounting to a staggering 99.2 per cent of all ballots - the highest mark ever reached in Hong Kong's leadership races. Making a victory speech shortly after the results were announced, Lee appeared on stage with his wife, saying he will serve the city, the country and Hongkongers in this new position.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3176886/hong-kong-chief-executive-election-sole-candidate-john-lee>

CMSI China Maritime Report: The PLA Army Amphibious Force: Missions, Organization, Capabilities, and Training

Dennis J. Blasko

China Maritime Studies Institute (CMSI), 28 April 2022

This report examines the amphibious forces of the PLA Army and their preparations for large-scale amphibious operations, particularly concerning Taiwan.

<https://www.andrewerickson.com/2022/04/cmsi-china-maritime-report-20-the-pla-army-amphibious-force-missions-organization-capabilities-and-training/>

Bold and Unprecedented Moves: Building a US-Taiwan Defense Strategy in the Strait of Taiwan and South China Sea

Lt Col Julian Thomas

Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs, 05 May 2022

This article argues that through revised national policy, the United States should enforce an explicit security guarantee for Taiwan, leverage Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) capabilities, and employ a counter antiaccess/area-denial (A2/AD) strategy to curtail China's aggressive overtures within the South China Sea (SCS). First, this article examines why US national policy makers should explicitly guarantee the defense of Taiwan. It also highlights the impact of the United States' current "strategic ambiguity" policy language upon the backdrop of China's ambitions to reclaim Taiwan. Second, this text deliberates how Taiwan can leverage US joint force capabilities such as IAMD to inject uncertainty, fear, and high cost into China's calculus to seize and hold Taiwan. Third, this narrative explains how Taiwan should employ a counter A2/AD zone strategy to deter or resist China's use of force within the SCS. Fourth,

this manuscript examines opposing views on how increasing the United States' joint force efforts with Taiwan could create an unnecessary flashpoint between the United States and China. Finally, this text concludes that the concepts mentioned above could lead to greater regional interoperability to curtail China's aggressive overtures within the SCS.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/JIPA/Display/Article/3019529/bold-and-unprecedented-moves-building-a-us-taiwan-defense-strategy-in-the-strai/>