

July 31, 2025

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

**An Initiative by the Nuclear and Arms Control Centre,
MP-IDSA**



Chinese FM responds to Iran's announcement of nuclear talks with European countries

Global Times, July 21, 2025

When asked for comments on media report that the Iranian foreign ministry announced earlier that Iran, France, Germany, and the UK will hold talks on the Iranian nuclear issue in Istanbul at the level of deputy foreign ministers, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun stated that the Iranian nuclear issue bears on the peace and security of the Middle East and the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. China always advocates resolving the Iranian nuclear issue peacefully through political and diplomatic means. This is the only right way forward, Guo said. "We call on relevant parties to work in the same direction for bringing the issue back to the track of political settlement," he said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202507/1338888.shtml>

‘Eliminate toxic influences’: China’s military issues new political guidelines in wake of corruption wave

Vanessa Cai

South China Morning Post, July 21, 2025

China's top military body has issued a new set of guidelines for political officers following a series of corruption cases. The regulations, released by the Central Military Commission (CMC), were designed to "strengthen political loyalty", according to the official newspaper PLA Daily. The report stressed the importance of Communist Party officials embedded within the military "acting with fairness and integrity in personnel matters, and leading by example". A separate commentary published by the newspaper said the new rules drew "clear political red lines, boundaries on the exercise of power and limits on social interactions", and "represented a solemn commitment to the entire military".

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3319030/eliminate-toxic-influences-chinas-military-issues-new-political-guidelines-after-wave-corruption?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection

Chinese scientist details first planned Mars sample-return mission Tianwen 3

China Daily, July 22, 2025

China's first Mars sample-return mission, Tianwen 3, is scheduled for launch around 2028, with the goal of returning no less than 500 grams of Martian samples to Earth by around 2031, according

to the mission's chief scientist. Hou Zengqian, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and chief scientist of the Tianwen 3 mission, together with his collaborators, recently published an article in Nature Astronomy, systematically outlining the overall plan and scientific objectives of the mission for the first time.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202507/22/WS687f9459a310ad07b5d91541.html>

China showcases full spectrum of drone technology in 'border control' exercise

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, July 22, 2025

China has staged a warfare demonstration using a full spectrum of uncrewed systems, underscoring its role as a leading global drone supplier, according to a state media report. The drone and counter-drone exercise at a testing ground in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region simulated the “seizure and control of critical border locations”, state broadcaster CCTV reported. It said numerous domestically made systems were deployed in live operations across six phases of the futuristic battlefield scenario, covering reconnaissance, AI planning, infiltration, aerial attack, elimination and anti-access.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3319159/china-showcases-full-spectrum-drone-technology-border-control-exercise?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection

China completes preliminary design of 4th-generation commercial fast reactor

Xinhua, July 23, 2025

China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) has announced that it had finished the preliminary design of the country's first fourth-generation 1-million-kilowatt commercial fast reactor, called CFR1000. The announcement was made at a symposium on advanced nuclear energy development held in Fuzhou, capital of east China's Fujian Province. Confirmation of this progress came as the country continues to seek the development of greater green energy capabilities to power its economy amid a spate of efforts to improve its energy mix and meet its dual carbon targets.

<https://english.news.cn/20250723/e80f62e881d84ed58d8abade850a9e4f/c.html>

Taiwan, US mull spaceport cooperation

Kayleigh Madjar

Taipei Times, July 23, 2025

Taiwan and the US are discussing the potential for spaceport cooperation, which could shorten travel time between Taipei and Houston, Texas, to two-and-a-half hours, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) said. The program would expand space cooperation between Taiwan and the US, the AIT said on Facebook, adding that the matter is “awaiting further evaluation.” If suborbital flights are used, it would take only two-and-a-half hours to travel between Taipei and Houston, the AIT said. The cooperation could initially focus on uncrewed cargo missions before maturing technology enables crewed flights, it added.

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2025/07/23/2003840768>

Video of new UAV hints at sleek future of China’s ‘loyal wingman’ military drones

Enoch Wong

South China Morning Post, July 23, 2025

A new video circulating online shows what appears to be a Chinese tailless drone flying in formation with a turboprop, offering a rare glimpse at the country’s progress in developing collaborative combat aircraft. The footage, first circulated at the weekend on China’s social media platform Weibo, reveals the tailless aircraft with a distinctive diamond-shaped delta wing configuration. Accompanying the drone is a Y-8 or Y-9 turboprop-powered transport aircraft, with another similar aircraft trailing separately.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3319177/video-new-uav-hints-sleek-future-chinas-loyal-wingman-military-drones?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection

Tianwan nuclear power plant’s Unit 7 completes cold testing, as China ramps up clean energy transition

Global Times, July 23, 2025

The Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant's Unit 7 reactor, in East China's Jiangsu Province, developed by China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC), completed cold functional testing, marking its full transition from the installation phase to the commissioning phase. This milestone sets the basis for the safe and orderly commissioning of subsequent units, according to a statement CNNC sent to

the Global Times. As a major integrated commissioning test for nuclear power plants, the cold functional test serves as the first comprehensive check of reactor performance.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202507/1339055.shtml>

Chinese scientists break design ‘curse’ that killed US Navy’s X-47B drone programme

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, July 23, 2025

Chinese aerospace engineers have a revolutionary software design that they say will allow them to overcome a major barrier to stealth aircraft development. The new platform allows plane designers to have as many design variables as they want without increasing computing load – a feat long deemed impossible in aviation circles. The researchers described their innovation as breaking the “dimensionality curse” and used the US Navy’s X-47B, a demonstration stealth drone, to illustrate how the system worked.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3319249/chinese-scientists-break-design-curse-killed-us-navys-x-47b-drone-programme>

China remains obstacle to US Navy ship maintenance at Gunsan yard

Park Jae-hyuk

The Korea Times, July 23, 2025

Debate is intensifying over a proposal to redesign HD Hyundai Heavy Industries’ (HHI) dockyard in Gunsan, North Jeolla Province, as a dedicated site for the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of U.S. Navy vessels. This follows speculation that Seoul presented the idea during tariff negotiations with Washington. While many residents of the southwestern port city are pinning hopes on the MRO project to help revive the local economy, concerns are mounting about potential threats from China, which lies just 190 kilometres from the dockyard. “Considering the fact that the dockyard is within the range of short- and medium-range ballistic missiles from Chinese missile units in Shandong and Henan provinces, questions remain over the plan, despite its strategic value,” SK Securities analyst Han Seung-han said.

<https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/business/companies/20250731/china-remains-obstacle-to-us-navy-ship-maintenance-at-gunsan-yard>

Ministry warns of marine data espionage

Li Shangyi

China Daily, July 24, 2025

Foreign espionage agencies have conducted a series of intelligence-gathering and technological activities to spy on China's maritime areas in recent years, posing growing threats to national security, according to the Ministry of State Security. In a statement released on its WeChat account, the ministry underscored the strategic importance of safeguarding marine data, warning that if such data is exploited by foreign agencies with malicious intent, it could seriously endanger China's national security. Foreign intelligence agencies have used various means to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations in China's territorial waters, the ministry said.

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202507/24/WS68816473a310af1daa8254aa.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the US President Donald Trump unveiling an AI action plan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, July 24, 2025

China believes that all parties should jointly promote the open and inclusive development of AI for good and for all. Our emphasis should not be on confrontation and competition, but rather on sharing the dividends of AI and achieving common development.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202507/t20250724_11676510.html

25th EU-China summit - EU press release

Council of the EU and the European Council, July 24, 2025

The European Union (EU) and China held their 25th summit in Beijing on 24 July 2025. The President of the European Council, António Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, met with China's President, Xi Jinping, followed by a meeting with Premier Li Qiang. The High Representative of the EU for Foreign and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, also participated in the meetings. The leaders agreed that the EU and China have the shared responsibility to uphold the international rules-based order and to tackle global challenges. They reiterated their commitment to work together to safeguard multilateralism.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/07/24/25th-eu-china-summit-eu-press-release/>

Beijing's South China Sea campaign of intimidation has run aground

Gregory Poling

War On the Rocks, July 25, 2025

During a June 17 speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Steve Koehler declared that despite an ongoing campaign of intimidation against its smaller neighbors in the South China Sea, “China’s pressure is not working well. It has failed to intimidate Southeast Asian claimants and make them surrender their sovereign rights.” Koehler detailed examples of Chinese harassment and violence over the last year against Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and especially the Philippines, but noted that in each case, the Southeast Asian states have refused to back down.

<https://warontherocks.com/2025/07/beijings-south-china-sea-campaign-of-intimidation-has-run-aground/>

How China's new Information Support Force gears military up for PLA modernisation

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, July 25, 2025

China's new Information Support Force (ISF) has stepped up joint training with other military branches, showcasing an integrated combat system and increased mobile and decentralised deployment capabilities, according to the official paper of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). This includes a new training approach featuring the “embedding” of small ISF teams into the PLA's air, naval and ground forces to offer real-time information support. Established in April 2024 as part of the PLA's modernisation push, the force is tasked with coordinating the application of network information systems within the Chinese military.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3319592/how-chinas-new-information-support-force-gears-military-pla-modernisation?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the China-EU Summit

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, July 25, 2025

As in any bilateral relations, differences do exist between China and the EU. On economic and trade issues which are of concern to the EU, China shared its position in a comprehensive, patient, in-depth and detailed way with a friendly, respectful and candid attitude. China stressed that the China-EU economic and trade relations are mutually complementary and win-win in nature. There

should and can well be a dynamic equilibrium formed in the interactions. China is committed to realizing the sustainable and balanced growth of trade with the EU. We are willing to import more quality products from the EU that meet China's market demand, and hope the EU will ease restrictions on high-tech exports to China.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202507/t20250725_11677269.html

China unveils the largest crystal for high-powered laser weapons

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, July 25, 2025

Chinese researchers have manufactured the world's largest barium gallium selenide (BGSe) crystal, a breakthrough that could pave the way for ultra-high-power laser weapons capable of zapping satellites from the ground. The synthetic crystal, measuring 60 millimetres (2.3 inches) in diameter, efficiently converts short-wave infrared lasers into mid- to far-infrared beams that can penetrate atmospheric windows for long-distance transmission. Crucially, it can withstand laser power as intense as 550 megawatts per square centimetre – exceeding the damage threshold of existing military-grade crystals by an order of magnitude.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3319446/china-unveils-largest-crystal-high-powered-laser-weapons>

Japan reports rare sighting of Chinese Navy Submarine Support Ship

Dzirhan Mahadzir

USNI News, July 25, 2025

A Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy Dakai-class submarine rescue ship sailed through the Tsushima Strait, marking the first time a Chinese submarine support vessel has been spotted in the area, Japanese officials said. The Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force confirmed the sighting of a PLAN ship bearing hull number 841 as it sailed east around 205 miles west of Japan's Goto Islands. The Chinese ship sailed northeast through the Tsushima Strait to enter the Sea of Japan, according to the Japan Joint Staff Office. Maritime patrol aircraft from JMSDF Kanoya Air Base on the main island of Kyushu and Fleet Air Wing 4 based at Naval Air Facility Atsugi on the main island of Honshu shadowed the PLAN ship, according to the release.

<https://news.usni.org/2025/07/25/japan-reports-rare-sighting-of-chinese-navy-submarine-support-ship#:~:text=Japan%20Reports%20Rare%20Sighting%20of%20Chinese%20Navy%20Submarine%20Support%20Ship,-Dzirhan%20Mahadzir&text=A%20Chinese%20People's%20Liberation%20Army,the%20area%2C%20Japanese%20officials%20said>

China proposes global body to govern artificial intelligence

William Langley, Eleanor Olcott and Ryan McMorrow

Financial Times, July 26, 2025

China has unveiled a sweeping plan to expand its role in artificial intelligence governance including the creation of a global co-operation organisation as Beijing vies with Washington for technological leadership. Speaking at the opening of the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in Shanghai, Chinese premier Li Qiang said AI innovation was hindered by “bottlenecks” such as the supply of computer chips. Without explicitly mentioning the US, he took aim at “technological monopolies” and restrictions which could lead to AI becoming “an exclusive game for a few countries and companies”.

<https://www.ft.com/content/de06e1ac-6a12-45a4-a31c-0dfecea4343e>

No more Achilles' heel in hypersonic race? China's zirconium find boosts reserve fivefold

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, July 27, 2025

In a discovery that could reshape the global balance of strategic mineral supply, Chinese geologists have uncovered a huge zirconium deposit in the Kubai Basin, on the northern fringe of the Tarim Basin in Xinjiang – a deadly stretch of arid land that may now become a new driver of China’s hi-tech military ambitions. The newly identified deposit, embedded within Cenozoic continental sedimentary layers dating to the Paleogene and Neogene periods, represents the first super-large zirconium resource ever discovered in a terrestrial, non-marine basin in China.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3319519/no-more-achilles-heel-hypersonics-race-china-zirconium-find-boosts-reserve-five-fold>

Chinese humanoid robot companies vow to enhance global footprint at Shanghai WAIC 2025

Zhang Weilan and Wang Dong

Global Times, July 28, 2025

Representatives of leading Chinese robotics companies said at an ongoing industry expo in Shanghai that they are accelerating their global expansion with high-quality embodied artificial intelligence (AI) products that have already proven effective on factory floors. Wang Chuang, president of AgiBot's general business line, told the Global Times that his company is building a global footprint this year. "Backed by reliable hardware and booming international demand, we

will export robots while empowering local partners to handle cultural tweaks and incremental features," Wang said. "The Middle East, Southeast Asia, Japan and South Korea are our targeted markets and slated for 2025 rollouts."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202507/1339450.shtml>

Donald Trump freezes export controls to secure trade deal with China

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, July 28, 2025

The US has frozen restrictions on technology exports to China to avoid hurting trade talks with Beijing and help President Donald Trump secure a meeting with President Xi Jinping this year, according to people familiar with the matter. While Trump wants to avoid actions that could hurt efforts to meet Xi, some officials have argued that the US is hamstrung on export controls because of the risk that China retaliates by restricting the export to the US of critical rare earths and magnets, as it did in May for the first time.

<https://www.ft.com/content/a13ba438-3b43-46dd-b332-4b81b3644da0>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on detention of the Chinese researcher by US law enforcement agencies

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, July 28, 2025

For quite some time, the U.S. has overstretched the concept of national security to frequently harass and interrogate Chinese students and scholars in the U.S., and even arrest and prosecute them by trumpeting up charges. This severely infringes on the lawful rights and interests of Chinese students and scholars, disturbs China-U.S. people-to-people and cultural exchanges, in particular education cooperation, and will end up tarnishing the U.S.'s own image and reputation in the world.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202507/t20250728_11678340.html

PLA Navy's new Z-20J utility helicopters seen on Type 075 amphibious assault ship in official media coverage

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 28, 2025

After making its public debut at the Airshow China 2024, the Z-20J helicopter of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy was seen in an official media report on board a Type 075

amphibious assault ship. A Chinese military affairs expert said that this combination offers formidable capabilities during amphibious landing operations. The baseline version of the Z-20 utility helicopter made its debut at the National Day military parade on October 1, 2019 in Beijing. Although there had been many analyses, unofficial sightings and media reports about a shipborne version of the Z-20, it was finally officially unveiled as the Z-20J at the Airshow China 2024 held in Zhuhai, South China's Guangdong Province in November 2024.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202507/1339476.shtml>

Donald Trump blocks Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te from New York stopover

Demetri Sevastopulo and Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, July 29, 2025

Donald Trump's administration has denied permission for Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te to stop in New York en route to Central America, after China raised objections with Washington about the visit. Lai planned to transit the US in August en route to Paraguay, Guatemala and Belize, which recognise Taiwan as a country. But the US told Lai he could not visit New York on the way, according to three people familiar with the decision. China objects to Taiwanese leaders visiting the US, which does not have official diplomatic relations with Taipei. In 2023, the Biden administration allowed then-president Tsai Ing-wen to stop in New York on her way to Belize and Guatemala.

<https://www.ft.com/content/21575bec-5cdd-47ee-9db2-3031c4ea7ca7>

Japan's first space defence guidelines hyping Chinese, Russian 'killer satellites' distort facts, find excuse for Tokyo's space weaponization: Chinese Foreign Ministry

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, July 29, 2025

China firmly opposes Japan's attempt to create a pretext for its own military buildup by peddling the narrative of threats from other countries. In recent years, Japan has increased defence spending annually and moved further down the path of military expansion. In outer space, Japan, the U.S. and other Western countries have kept expanding military cooperation, and used "defence" as a pretext to develop and deploy space weapons. These measures threaten the security and stability of outer space, and trigger the concerns of neighboring countries on the reviving militarism.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202507/t20250729_11679085.html

China launches commercial carrier rocket

Xinhua, July 29, 2025

China successfully launched the SQX-1 Y10 commercial carrier rocket into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The rocket blasted off at 1211 hrs (Beijing Time) from the launch site, sending a satellite into its planned orbit.

<https://english.news.cn/20250729/fc7fd63b65034dd693c28afbc1621649/c.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Thailand-Cambodia conflict

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, July 29, 2025

In the past few days, the international community, especially Malaysia, the rotating chair of ASEAN, has been going between Thailand and Cambodia to promote peace talks, and jointly facilitated the leaders' meeting of Cambodia and Thailand on July 28. Reaching a ceasefire agreement between Cambodia and Thailand is an important step to restore peace and calm. China commends and welcomes this. As a friend and close neighbor of Cambodia and Thailand, China will maintain close communication with all parties including the two countries, and in light of the will of Cambodia and Thailand, continue to work in our own way and play a constructive role in consolidating the ceasefire agreement.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202507/t20250729_11679085.html

PLA Southern Theatre Command conducts combat readiness patrols around Huangyan Dao; advanced warships, warplanes featured in the mission

Global Times, July 29, 2025

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command organized naval and air forces to conduct combat readiness patrols in waters and airspace around territorial waters of China's Huangyan Dao, the PLA Southern Theater Command said. According to a video released by the PLA Southern Theater Command, the patrols featured several types of advanced warships and warplanes, including the Type 052D destroyer, Type 054A frigate, Type 903A replenishment ship, Z-9 shipborne helicopter, J-16 fighter jet, Su-30 fighter jet and H-6K bomber. The bomber is seen in the video carrying the YJ-12 supersonic anti-ship missile.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202507/1339564.shtml>

How China is girding for an AI battle with the U.S.

Raffaele Huang and Liza Lin

The Wall Street Journal, July 29, 2025

China is ramping up efforts to build a domestic artificial-intelligence ecosystem that can function without Western technology, as it steels itself for a protracted tech contest with the U.S. Washington has been trying to slow China's AI progress through export controls and other restrictions that limit Chinese access to U.S. capital, talent and advanced U.S. technologies. To an extent, those restrictions have worked. But China is fighting back with expanding efforts to become more self-sufficient in AI—a push that could ultimately make it less vulnerable to U.S. pressure if it succeeds.

<https://www.wsj.com/tech/ai/how-china-is-girding-for-an-ai-battle-with-the-u-s-5b23af51>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Japan's abandoned chemical weapons (ACWs) in China

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, July 30, 2025

Japan's abandoned chemical weapons (ACWs) in China mark one of the gravest crimes that Japanese militarists committed during the war of aggression against China. China has been urging Japan to destroy them completely and thoroughly at an early date in strict accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention and the MOU between the two countries' governments. To date, Japan has excavated and retrieved over 160,000 ACWs and destroyed 130,000 or so. However, the destruction process is generally seriously lagging behind schedule.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202507/t20250730_11679797.html

Chinese vice premier urges stronger China-U.S. cooperation, less misunderstanding

The State Council, the People's Republic of China, July 30, 2025

The United States should work with China to continue to enhance consensus, reduce misunderstandings, strengthen cooperation, further deepen dialogue and consultations, and strive for more win-win outcomes, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng said. A stable, healthy and sustainable China-U.S. economic and trade relationship serves not only the two countries' respective development goals but also contributes to global economic growth and stability, He

said. He made the remarks during the new round of China-U.S. economic and trade talks in Stockholm with U.S. lead person Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202507/30/content_WS688952a1c6d0868f4e8f4865.html

China's aircraft carrier Fujian, J-15T fighter jet hold maritime integration test, official media program shows

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 30, 2025

Official Chinese media released footage of carrier-aircraft integration tests between China's electromagnetic catapults-equipped aircraft carrier Fujian and the J-15T shipborne fighter jet. An expert said the tests marked a major milestone ahead of the upcoming commissioning of the Fujian. Chinese military affairs expert Fu Qianshao told the Global Times that this marks a major milestone of the Fujian, meaning that the carrier-aircraft integration tests were likely already underway in previous sea trials. Fu said that sea trials could verify the Fujian's electromagnetic catapult and arresting technology. While the technology must have completed tests on land, it is important that they were done on an actual aircraft carrier at sea.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202507/1339693.shtml>

From seas to space: China's Type 815A spy ships are keeping PLA Navy informed and ready

Enoch Wong

South China Morning Post, July 30, 2025

China's Type 815A spy ships have become pivotal to People's Liberation Army naval operations and intelligence gathering, with recent incidents underscoring the vessels' crucial role in Beijing's maritime surveillance and power projection. The Chinese spy ship, accompanied by the CCG's Zhaojun-class cutter 4203 and later joined by PLA Navy Type 052D guided missile destroyer Guilin (hull number 164), was conducting what appeared to be intelligence-gathering operations during the US-Philippine Cope Thunder aerial combat exercise.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3317443/seas-space-chinas-type-815a-spy-ships-are-keeping-pla-navy-informed-and-ready?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection

Intelligence reveals scale of China's base-building in the South China Sea

Henry Zwartz

ABC News, July 30, 2025

China has built a 3,200-hectare network of island military bases in the South China Sea, some of which are now capable of launching nuclear bombers, intelligence reveals. The latest satellite images tracked by the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) show the true extent of China's rapid expansion across the region. Gregory Poling, director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, said the base development was alarming for Australia and regional allies like Japan and the US. "China has a lot of military infrastructure on these bases now," Mr Poling told the ABC. "They include: harbours, large runways, more than 72 fighter jet hangars across three big island bases, surface-to-air missile and anti-ship cruise missile emplacements, and a lot of radar, sensing and communications infrastructure.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-30/tracking-militarisation-in-the-south-china-sea/105473948>

PLA unveils 10GW microwave weapon blueprint with ultra-fast firing 'super radiance' tech

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, July 31, 2025

Chinese military scientists have revealed the design of a microwave weapon theoretically capable of firing 10-gigawatt power beams at a repeating rate of 126 million times per second. The inspiration for the blueprint can be traced back to an explosive quantum phenomenon first glimpsed in Soviet laboratories during the Cold War. The concept is rooted in the physics of "superradiance", a design that promises unprecedented peak power, efficiency and firing speed – a combination that would mark a dramatic leap beyond limitations that have long constrained high-power microwave systems.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3319874/pla-unveils-10gw-microwave-weapon-blueprint-ultra-fast-firing-superradiance-tech>

Lunar soil samples, aerospace equipment on show in HK

Gang Wen

China Daily, July 31, 2025

The first exhibition to comprehensively showcase the country's achievements in aerospace, aviation and navigation will open at the Hong Kong Science Museum, featuring lunar soil samples collected by Chang'e missions and other rare exhibits related to space and deep-sea exploration.

Running through Sept 7, the exhibition will also highlight the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)'s contributions to national scientific projects, with lectures by Chinese mainland aviation, aerospace and maritime experts to give visitors a better understanding of the country's technological achievements, a news conference was told.

<https://www.chinadailyasia.com/hk/article/617103>

Chinese space start-up unveils plan for new AI satellite computing constellation, 4 times stronger than inaugural batch

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, July 31, 2025

China's space start-up ADA Space unveiled its plan for a new computing satellite constellation of 12 satellites, with computing power expected to be four times greater than the inaugural batch launched in May. The project accelerates the construction of its Star Compute program, which will ultimately comprise 2,800 supercomputer satellite systems. At a ceremony held in Wuxi, East China's Jiangsu Province on Thursday, ADA Space revealed that the new constellation, codenamed Liangxi, will consist of 12 intelligent computing satellites and have a combined computing power of 20 peta operations per second (POPS).

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202507/1339754.shtml>

Top Republican lawmaker to lead congressional delegation to Taiwan

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, July 31, 2025

A top Republican lawmaker will lead a congressional delegation to Taiwan in August, a development that will be welcomed in Taipei amid concerns about Donald Trump's commitment to the country in the face of Chinese pressure. The visit by Roger Wicker, a Republican Senator from Mississippi and chair of the Senate armed services committee, was confirmed by three people familiar with the plans. Wicker is one of Taiwan's biggest allies in Congress.

<https://www.ft.com/content/d9f8a65a-e2dc-44be-8f7a-79f91c5ebd75>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on a U.S. congressional delegation visit to Taiwan in August

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, July 31, 2025

China firmly opposes official interactions in any form between the U.S. and the Taiwan region. There is but one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. China

calls on the U.S. to abide by the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. joint communiqués, stop interfering in China's internal affairs with any excuse, stop conniving at or supporting "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, stop its official interactions with Taiwan, and stop stirring up tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202507/t20250731_11680726.html

Chinese official media releases footage of ICBM launch, submarine far seas mission ahead of PLA's 98th founding anniversary

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 31, 2025

Ahead of the Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) 98th founding anniversary, Chinese official media intensively published a series of national defence achievements, including release of rare video footage of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch of last year and, for the first time, footage of a far seas mission by a new type of submarine. The video footage of the ICBM launch shows the missile ascending after being launched, according to a report by China Bugle, an official media account affiliated with the PLA News Media Centre. Another clip showed, for the first time, video footage of a far-seas mission by a new type of submarine, according to a report by the military channel of China Central Television (CCTV).

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202507/1339811.shtml>

China summons Nvidia over 'serious security issues' with chips

Eleanor Olcott

Financial Times, July 31, 2025

Beijing has summoned Nvidia over alleged security issues with its chips, in a blow to the US company's push to revive sales in the country after Washington granted approval for the export of a made-for-China chip. China's cyber regulator said it had held a meeting with Nvidia over what it called "serious security issues" with the company's artificial intelligence chips. It said US AI experts had "revealed that Nvidia's computing chips have location tracking and can remotely shut down the technology". The Cyberspace Administration of China requested that Nvidia explain the security problems associated with the H20 chip, which was designed for the Chinese market to comply with US export restrictions, and submit documentation to support their case.

<https://www.ft.com/content/e4904e6f-bf0d-4566-b3c9-b52e70a44979>

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