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## CHINA

### PLA Patrols South China Sea

The People's Liberation Army (PLA)'s Southern Theatre Command held a [joint patrol](#) using its naval and air assets in the South China Sea (SCS) on 15 June. The recent patrol, according to Chinese media was in response to Philippines' joint patrols with other countries. Beijing considers that these joint patrols are used by the Philippines to 'rally extra regional countries' to undermine peace in the region. The PLA vessels also held [training sessions](#) for the Nansha Garrison of the PLA Navy in SCS and deployed two replenishment ships. In the exercises, training sessions focused on vessel formation, 'formation navigation, joint maritime search and rescue, shipborne helicopter take-off, and landing at night time'. The exercises were aimed at creating realistic scenarios for the troops, as the PLA is working towards training under 'actual combat conditions'. Further, the drill was also intended to prepare the troops to train in transport of supplies for replenishment missions.

### Lhasa Garrison of Tibet Military Region (TMR) Organised Militia Training

The second batch of militias of the People's Armed Forces Department of Qiushui County of Lhasa Garrison [organised](#) basic militia training in 2025 from 3 to 13 June. Reportedly, the training [aimed](#) at improving the emergency response capabilities of the militia involving multi-skill training of the soldier. The drill

included exercises such as individual tactical basics, light weapon operation, self-rescue and mutual rescue, camouflage and protection, and explosion-proof formations. The training was based on the PLA's "Militia Military Training Outline" that adheres to the principle of "actual combat training", and its integrated method of "teaching, learning, training, and testing". Besides military training, the county People's Armed Forces Department also conducted ideological and political education, adopting the form of "theoretical teaching + exchanges and discussion". The officer in-charge of the training [said](#) the department will organise such training for militia on a regular basis in order to improve the level of national defense mobilisation and reserve force construction.

### Military Parade at 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory against the Japanese Aggression

China's State Council has announced that the [military parade](#) commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory against the Japanese aggression would be held on 3 September 2025. The military parade is generally seen as the ideal platform for the PLA to showcase their combat capabilities from all the military services. It is also the place where new weapons systems or platforms are seen as part of its signalling of its military prowess. This year, the PLA plans to show formations from new military organisations such as the Aerospace Force, Cyberspace Force, and Information Support Force.

## JAPAN

### Chinese Aircraft Carriers in Japan's Vicinity

On 8 June, Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Forces (MSDF) [reported viewing](#) of China's aircraft carrier *Liaoning* in the vicinity of Japan's easternmost island, Minami-Torishima. Reportedly, this is the first time a Chinese naval vessel has been spotted in those waters. The *Liaoning*, along with its fleet constituting two destroyers and a vessel of unspecified type, passed through waters about 300 kilometres southwest of the islands, which are themselves located 1900 km away from Tokyo but are within Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The *Liaoning* then moved southwest to conduct takeoff and landing drills with its fleet air assets. On 9 June, it was [joined](#) by its sister ship the *Shandong*, which was also accompanied by its fleet complement. The two carriers reportedly conducted extensive drills within Japan's EEZ, marking the first time China's naval vessels conducted operations in the 'second island chain'.

In response to the sighting, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi conveyed to reporters at a press conference that Japan had made 'appropriate representation' to Beijing. This was expanded upon by Defence Minister Gen Nakatani, who on 10 June [informed](#) reporters that Japan had expressed concern over the possibility that Chinese naval actions in the area should take care not to pose 'grave security risks' to Japan. Nakatani also relayed the Ministry of Defence's assessment that the carrier

deployment was undertaken with an eye to possibly convey to the region the Chinese navy's capability to operate in far waters closer to the United States of America. He called for the continuation of 'greater surveillance and monitoring' of such activities.

However, Japanese concerns moved into a higher gear, when on 11 June it was [revealed](#) that a Chinese J-15 fighter from the *Shandong*'s complement of aircraft undertook dangerous manoeuvres around a MSDF-operated P3C surveillance aircraft observing the two carriers' moves. The J-15 reportedly approached within 45 metres of the P3C and passed by 900 metres in front of the latter while matching altitude. The MOD revealed that though no one was hurt on the Japanese side, 'these abnormal approaches by a Chinese military plane may cause an accidental collision'.

### Japan Forms Defence Scientific Research Committee

Japan's Ministry of Defence (MOD) on 13 June [notified](#) that it had convened the first meeting of a newly-established Defence Science and Technology Board (DSTB), whose task would be to advise the Defence Minister on defence-related scientific and technological challenges. It would also aim to formulate policy relating to these concerns, as well as to conduct comparative studies of efforts other nations are undertaking to overcome research and development-related challenges. The 16-member board will be chaired by Professor Sadamichi Maekawa, Professor Emeritus at Tohoku University in Japan's northeast,

and is comprised of members from academia, corporations as well as retired senior officers from the Self-Defence Forces.

## TAIWAN

### New Military Exercise in Taiwan

Recently, Taiwan [introduced](#) a new military exercise, named, Urban Resilience Exercises. According to Taiwanese media, the new exercise would be conducted together with *Han Kuang*, which is Taiwan's annual and largest military exercise in July 2025. The objective of the newly set up military exercise is to deepen 'civil-military cooperation' by way of improving coordination for emergency responses among non-military sectors. The Whole-of-Society Defense Resilience Committee, formed in May 2024 under the convenorship of President Lai Ching-te, supervises the newly set up exercise. Thus far, it has been organised in Taiwan's eight counties and cities. The media [noted](#) that the upcoming Han Kuang exercise would include "responses to gray-zone coercion by China" and it will use platforms such as HIMARS rocket system, which it has purchased from the US. In the exercise, the military will work on emergency command centers and readiness to early detect "key warning indicators of a potential PLA attack."

## THE KOREAN PENINSULA

### North Korea-Russia Military Partnership

In June, the Secretary of Russian Security Council Sergei Shoigu [visited](#) North Korea

and met Kim Jong-un on 4 June. This was his second trip to Pyongyang in 70 days. Shoigu thanked the Kim Jong-un regime for sending its troops to Russia and supporting Moscow's war against Ukraine. Sergei Shoigu [again](#) visited North Korea and met Kim Jong-un on 17 June to celebrate the first anniversary of the "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" between the two countries. It was also reported that North Korea would have probably suffered about 6000 [casualties](#) in the ongoing Ukraine war. On the other hand, North Korea [slammed](#) the United States-led multilateral sanctions monitoring team (MSMT) for targeting the ongoing military partnership between Moscow and Pyongyang.

### South Korea to Export Tanks to Poland

In June, South Korea's Hyundai Rotem was reported to be finalising a [deal](#) for the export of K2 battle tanks to Poland. This contract is estimated to be worth US\$ 6 billion (8.16 trillion Won) and Hyundai Rotem would supply 180 K2 tanks to this East European nation. Notably, Poland has emerged as one of the largest buyers of South Korean arms in the recent years. Also, this deal by Hyundai Rotem worth US\$ 6 billion would be the biggest single defence export in the history of South Korea. Reportedly, this is the second contract for Hyundai Rotem to export K2 battle tanks to Poland. South Korean defence industries are also looking for opportunities to [export](#) weapons to other countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).