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- **China's New Stealth Fighter**
- **PLA Western Theatre Command Sends 300 Chinese Troops to Pakistan for Joint Exercises**
- **10kW High-Power Laser Weapon Combat Truck Inducted into Japanese Army**
- **US Arms Sales to Taiwan**
- **The US-Japan Cooperation on Taiwan**
- **Military Exercises by South Korea**
- **North Korea's increased missiles and drones production**



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## CHINA

### China's New Stealth Fighter

At the Zhuhai Airshow, China's premier defense exhibition the People's Liberation Army (PLA) unveiled its [fifth generation of stealth fighter](#) J-35A. The new generation of aircraft comes as China is competing with the United States (US) over superiority in air power. Notably, the stealth fighter jet when inducted in service will make China the second country after the US to be equipped with two generation of stealth fighters. The *Global Times* [reported](#) that "J-35A's radar capability is one of the best in the world with new concepts, crafting techniques and materials reflecting Chinese designers' new understandings on aerial warfare".

### PLA Western Theatre Command Sends 300 Chinese Troops to Pakistan for Joint Exercises

The opening ceremony of China-Pakistan counter terrorism exercise coded "Warrior VIII" was [held](#) on 20 November. A report posted on the Chinese Defense Ministry's official website stated that over 300 troops drawn from the PLA Western Theatre Command's special operations, army aviation and logistics support were sent to Pakistan to take part in the exercise. Further, the exercise themed "joint anti-terrorism crackdown and strike operations" was conducted for twenty days and [involved](#) multi-level training across various specialties and live-troop drills simulating actual combat scenarios. Reportedly, the [participating](#) Chinese troops and equipment

including army aviation helicopters mainly Z-10 and Mi-171 series were flown into Pakistan in batches by Y-20 transport aircraft. Upon reaching the designated area, the Chinese troops started deployment, field survey, and command post-set-up. This exercise is taking place amid recurring attacks from the Islamic militant group Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) in northwest Pakistan and militants of Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) who targets Chinese nationals working in the projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

## JAPAN

### 10kW High-Power Laser Weapon Combat Truck Inducted into Japanese Army

At the 70th Anniversary Review Ceremony of the South Korean Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces on 9 November, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) showcased the newly inducted [10kW-class high-power](#) laser electronic warfare (EW) combat truck. Reportedly, this advanced laser system, developed by Japan's Defense Acquisition Agency, signifies a substantial leap forward in Japan's directed-energy weapon (DEW) capabilities. These capabilities are being considered of strategic importance in effectively addressing counter aerial and missile threats, including hostile unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and low-altitude missile systems. According to observers, development of this advanced laser system is part of the broader modernization effort underway in Japanese defense establishment.

## TAIWAN

### US Arms Sales to Taiwan

The outgoing Biden administration [announced](#) its 18<sup>th</sup> arms sales to Taiwan. The arms sales will include spare parts and support for F-16 fighter aircraft. It will also provide a “follow-up support for Improved Mobile Subscriber Equipment (IMSE).” The proposed arms sale is worth US\$387 million. Separately, the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC), a US congressional commission, [recommended](#) amending the Arms Export Control Act to enable Taiwan “to receive the same arms sales status as NATO Plus countries,” which comprise Japan, Australia, South Korea, Israel, and New Zealand.

### The US-Japan Cooperation on Taiwan

The media [reported](#) that the US and Japan are working on a joint military plan “to deploy missile units to Japan's southwestern island chain and the Philippines in the event China attacks Taiwan.” Reportedly, the US will send the US Marine Littoral Regiment, equipped with the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), to the Ryukyu Islands of Japan under this plan. On their part, the JSDF forces would primarily extend logistical support of ammunition and fuel and in other forms to the US troops under the plan.

## THE KOREAN PENINSULA

### Military Exercises by South Korea

In November, South Korea and the US conducted a first ever [joint exercise](#) on the use of drones in warfare situation. The joint drill saw the participation of a RQ-4B Global Hawk surveillance drone from South Korea and an American MQ-9 Reaper attack drone. This joint exercise using drone technology was organised in the backdrop of the recent North Korean military provocation after Pyongyang launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). Also, the air forces of the US, South Korea and Japan conducted a [combined exercise](#) involving a B-1B bomber. The US, South Korea and Japan also [conducted](#) second round of their trilateral military exercise in multiple domains, known as “Freedom Edge” in November. The three-day Freedom Edge exercise was held near Jeju island of South Korea.

### North Korea's increased missiles and drones production

On 5 November, North Korea [tested](#) several short-range ballistic missiles which had a range of about 400 kilometres. According to the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), North Korea possibly used the KN-25 super-large multiple rocket launchers to test these missiles. In another report, the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un called for the [mass production](#) of “suicide attack drones” in the country.