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CHINA

A Regiment of the Xinjiang Military Region Conducts Live-Fire Training

On November 16, a regiment of the Xinjiang Military Region of the PLA Western Theatre Command (WTC) organised a day-and-night live-fire exercise in the Gobi Desert, focusing on testing the unit's rapid strike and coordinated combat capabilities. The drill made use of digital equipment and tactical innovation that ensured real-time data sharing via an integrated command information system. As a result the preparation time for firing was reduced by nearly half compared to previous drills. Various tactics were used such as alternating firing and concentrated fire, and at night employed radar to accurately intercept the target to fire. Other digital equipment utilised during the drill was armoured reconnaissance vehicles and weather vehicles to overcome the challenging weather conditions. The exercise simulated multiple waves of enemy aircraft harassment and night penetration drills. During the drill, the anti-aircraft artillery units transmitted the data in real-time via radar to improve the interception success rate. After every two rounds of strikes, the firepower units rapidly relocated, achieving the tactical requirement of "rapid attack and rapid withdrawal."

China's New White Paper Titled "China's Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation in the New Era."

On 27 November, China's State Council Information Office released a White Paper

titled "China's Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation in the New Era". This is China's third white paper on arms subject and previous two issues were released in 1995 and 2005. According to the Chinese news media, the white paper was released to "comprehensively present" China's views on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation and its position on governance of emerging fields such as the outer space, cyberspace and artificial intelligence. Notably, the white paper proposes that the United Nations (UN) should take the leading role in formulating a global governance framework and standard for the emerging fields based on global consensus and representation of the Global South. The White Paper stated China to be playing a "constructive role" by offering solutions in international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Advancements in the PLA Navy

The PLA Navy conducted comprehensive supply training exercise, where the ships carried out replenishments at sea training drills. In this exercise, the PLA deployed a guided-missile frigate, Dali and a supply ship, Weishanhu. In addition, China has added a third aircraft carrier, Fujian, bolstering its naval capabilities. The Fujian has the first electromagnetic catapult launches and its aircraft carrier has reached capabilities that can conduct maritime defence missions. The spokesperson of the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office stated that the 'three-carrier era' would 'foil any forces or schemes that seek to violate or split China's sacred territory'.

JAPAN

Japan Exports Patriot Missiles to US Under New Arms Transfer Rules

In response to a request from the United States (US), Japan [exported](#) domestically-manufactured Patriot missiles to Washington, as reported by news outlets on 20 November. This marks the first instance whereby Japan, which has substantially modified its arms transfer rules since 2023, has transferred finished weapon systems to another country. To be sure, as Japan manufactures the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 weapon system under licence from Raytheon, the transfer is covered by new regulations stipulating that finished weapons systems may be provided to the country holding the original licence for them. In the news report, interviewed sources stated that the missile systems were being exported to replenish the US' depleted stock of defensive missiles, which have mostly been exported to Ukraine. A Ministry of Defence official cited by the report conveyed that his ministry had received assurances that the weapons systems would be used by the US domestically and would not be re-exported.

Japanese Defence Minister Visits Okinawa

Newly-appointed Minister of Defence Shinjiro Koizumi [visited](#) the southwestern Okinawa island chain on 22-23 November for a series of interactions with uniformed and civilian officials in the prefecture. His itinerary included installations on Yonaguni, Miyako and Ishigaki islands, key to Japan's southwestern island

chain. At Yonaguni on 23 November, Koizumi [announced](#) that Japan would follow through on its commitment to deploying medium-to-long-range interceptor missile systems across the southwestern island chain, including on Yonaguni, which lies only a 110 kilometres away from the self-ruled island of Taiwan. The deployment of the Type-03 Mid-Range Surface-to-Air Missile systems, manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries as a truck-mounted system designed to intercept aerial threats up to 48 kilometres (30 miles) away, has been on the anvil since January 2025, when then-Defence Gen Nakatani expressed Japan's intention to base them in Yonaguni. On 24 November, during an interaction with officials in Miyako Island, Koizumi [stressed](#) the need to generate concrete plans to 'strengthen the defence' of the island chain and sought the cooperation of the local people and their elected representatives for the same. The representatives for their part sought further clarity on the activities of the Self-Defence Forces. They also sought further details on the Japanese government's plan, released in March, to evacuate civilians from the southwestern islands in the event of a Taiwan contingency.

TAIWAN

Taiwan's Artificial Intelligence Office and Military's Drone Strategy

The Taiwanese media [learnt](#) of the establishment of an artificial intelligence (AI) office under Taiwan's Ministry of Defence headquarters. At present, the focus of the office is on the "integration of AI into image and video detection, computer

security, and anti-hacking.” However, AI’s actual military use will depend on its “maturity and development.”

In a separate development, the media noted that Taiwanese military [envisages](#) three roles for drones: joint-operations, tactical, and combat. “Long-endurance, long-range reconnaissance, surveillance, and strike missions across Taiwan’s surrounding maritime and air domains” will be useful in joint-operations. Their tactical utility will be in performing reconnaissance and identifying enemy targets and to “deplete enemy’s air-defense missiles” by provoking the enemy to use them against drones. They will also be used to “assist in combined anti-landing, littoral, and beach operations.” Their combat function will be to “extend the warning and strike ranges of existing weapons, acquire targets, shorten response times, and support sustained operations.” Their peacetime value will be in carrying out “time-consuming and high-risk tasks such as maritime and air surveillance and patrols to reduce personnel burdens and wear on high-value manned systems.” Meanwhile, it was also [reported](#) that 12,884 of 52,674 of volunteer soldiers who volunteered from 2021 to end of 2024 have applied for early discharge from the military service. In return, they are willing to return US\$28.86 million to the government.

THE KOREAN PENINSULA

South Korea’s Defence Industry

South Korea has been increasing its cooperation in defence industry with foreign countries. In November 2025, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung

[visited](#) several countries of the Middle East, namely the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Turkey and signed agreements with them on enhancing cooperation in the field of arms production. According to another report, the Chief of Naval Operations of South Korea Adm. Kang Dong-gil visited Canada to [participate](#) in the Halifax International Security Forum and explore the potential for arms exports to this North American country. The South Korean arms manufacturing company Hanwha Ocean has been eyeing on the Canadian submarine sector. South Korea was also reported to have [won](#) the support of the United States to build nuclear-powered submarines.

North Korean Weapon Tests

On 3 November 2025, North Korea [fired](#) multiple artillery rockets which coincided with the visit of the United States’ Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to South Korea. According to the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), these rockets launched from North Korea went into the northern Yellow Sea. Earlier, the North Korean military had also fired multiple artillery rocket shells when Chinese President Xi Jinping was visiting South Korea to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit on 1 November. Reportedly, the 240 mm multiple rocket launchers of North Korea pose a grave threat to Seoul and its adjoining areas. Later, on 7 November, North Korea [tested](#) a missile which was apparently a short-range ballistic missile, and it flew towards the East Sea. Following this North Korean missile launch, the South Korean Presidential Office of National Security (ONS) had to hold an emergency meeting to examine this issue.