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## CHINA

### PLA Tibet Military Region Organises Live-Fire Shooting Drills

In late May, a unit of the Tibet Military Region (TMR) [conducted](#) a live-fire shooting assessment with multiple firearms in a high mountain canyon area. The drill aimed to enhance the combat capability of the troops in the canyon and dense forest area. Several combat teams were [formed](#) and each team consisted of senior and junior PLA officers and soldiers including the privates. The drill also tested the skill of live-fire shooting and psychological quality of the participating troops in actual combat. Large size and scale of artilleries were used during the drill including various types of rockets. The assessment team recorded the training data including the live-firing shooting data and analysed the performance of each team, and summarised the experience and lessons. The assessment team monitored the weather and studied the adverse effects of the harsh environment in carrying out live-fire combat operations. The Officer-in-Charge of the ongoing live-fire shooting training of the Tibet Military Region informed that the Tibet Military Region will promote regular drills of live-fire operations and will organise live-fire shooting training in different regions from time to time. He noted that the aim of the drill is to constantly hone the effectiveness of the troops' firepower under complex conditions.

### Protection of Chinese Military Industrial Facilities

China's State Council and the Central Military Commission jointly brought out a

set of [regulations](#) intended to ensure security of important military industrial facilities and their operational effectiveness and continuance of military research, production and related activities. Reportedly, the regulations are part of Beijing's strategy to "strengthen modernisation of national defense". The regulations consisting of 7 chapters and 51 articles cover a wide range of issues including, definition of key military industrial facilities; responsibilities of relevant departments; delineation for designation of protected zones; protective measures for key military industrial facilities; responsibilities for management units of key military industrial facilities; provisions to enhance the supervision capabilities of the relevant departments

## JAPAN

### Japan Passes New Law for Cyber-Defence

The Japanese Diet on 13 May [passed](#) a new law that aims to enable the Government of Japan to launch 'active cyberdefence measures' such as a pre-emptive counterattack in response to perceived malicious cyberattacks launched from abroad. The law also allows the government to monitor communications data, including foreign communications passing through Japanese servers, in peacetime as well. The 'active cyberdefence' law will place the onus of reporting digital breaches on public and private operators of key infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railways and power plants. The initial responsibility for detection and tracking will lie with law enforcement officers. However, if the attack is deemed to be 'particularly sophisticated, organised and premeditated'

by actors working on behalf of foreign powers, the Japanese Self-Defence Forces (JSDF)' Cyber Command will be mobilised to respond. In such an event, the JSDF will be authorised to neutralise the attacker's server. In case an attack is deemed imminent, the relevant responders will have the authority to pre-emptively disable servers likely to be the originators of the attack. An independent panel will authorise the course of action, including data acquisition, analysis and response. With regard to the collection of digital data, the law empowers government agencies to collect IP addresses used in communications between two foreign countries transiting through Japanese servers, as well as those used in communications sent to and from Japan. Data transmitted within Japan is explicitly excluded from its purview, and the government is not authorised to monitor the content of the data, including the text of emails and messaging. The independent panel mentioned above will also supervise the surveillance process in order to prevent violations of privacy. A meeting [organised](#) on 29 May at the Prime Minister's Office ended with an announcement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi that Japan's new Cybersecurity Strategy would be released by the end of the year incorporating the provisions of the new legislation.

### **Ishiba Expresses Intent to Ramp Up Defence Cooperation**

During a visit to Tokyo's pre-eminent biannual defence exhibition, DSEI Japan 2025, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba [delivered](#) an address on 22 May where he cited the deteriorating international

environment to stress the need to work with international allies and partners to enhance Japan's defence production. Explicitly citing China and North Korea's activities in the region, Ishiba argued that it was Japan's 'duty' to maintain freedom and peace in the region. Touching on the Global Combat Air Program project undertaken in collaboration with the United Kingdom and Italy, he stressed the incapability of any one country to unilaterally develop advanced weapons systems, and noted that the 'transfer, as well as co-development and co-production, of defence equipment with Japan's allies and partners is of critical importance'. After his address, Ishiba toured the venue and heard explanations regarding various systems and platforms from vendors.

## **TAIWAN**

### **US Arms Sales to Taiwan Likely to Increase**

Relying on anonymous sources, the Taiwanese media claimed that the Trump 2.0 is likely to make [more weapons](#) sales and provide deliveries to Taiwan than the Trump 1.0, which approved around US\$18.3 billion (NT\$547 billion) arms sales to Taiwan. Incidentally, the Biden administration approved arms sales worth US\$8.4 billion (NT\$251 billion). Besides, the media claimed that the US is convincing the opposition KMT "not to impede" the government's "efforts to increase national defence spending to 3% of GDP" in the Legislative Yuan.

### **Army Drone Units in Taiwan**

The Taiwanese media [reported](#) that Taiwan will soon set up "its first Army drone units

this year and will incorporate unmanned surface vehicles in its Navy.” Its marines “have already turned some tank and artillery battalions into drone squads.” More than 3,200 drones are to be bought “from domestic companies,” in next five years. It informed that as per one assessment, Taiwan manufactured around 10,000 drones in 2024.

## THE KOREAN PENINSULA

### South Korea’s Military Preparedness

In May 2025, the South Korean army conducted three-day [live-fire](#) air defence exercise near the border between North and South Korea. Reportedly, the defence drill was aimed to enhance military readiness against the possible drone attacks from North Korea. Also, former South Korean acting President, Han Duck-soo [urged](#) to strengthen defence preparedness against North Korea-Russia military cooperation. In another report, the United States [refuted](#) the recent media reports that it wants to deploy F-35A fighter jets in South Korea on a permanent basis. Also, to keep operational [readiness](#), the US and South Korean military participated in an eight-day “aerial logistic exercise”. However, there was a report that the US was considering to [pull out](#) several thousand American troops stationed in South Korea.

### North Korea’s Defence Modernisation

In May, the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un visited a tank manufacturing facility and called upon for [modernisation](#) of the defence industries. Kim Jong-un also urged to increase the [production](#) of artillery during his visit to the prominent munitions factories. Reportedly, North Korean

soldiers deployed in Russia were getting [training](#) in the modern drone technology and use of firearms. In another report, the South Korean military assessed that the new 5,000 tonnes multipurpose warship recently launched by North Korea possibly requires [more time](#) for deployment. This new warship named Choe Hyon built by North Korea apparently used Russian technology. Also, North Korea [tested](#) several short-range ballistic missiles on 8 May. Later, on 22 May, North Korea [test-fired](#) several cruise missiles which fell into the East Sea. North Korea is also reported to be [developing](#) medium-range air-to-air missile system, apparently with Russian support.