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# CHINA MILITARY DIGEST

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- PLA General Zhang Youxia visits Moscow
- China, U.S. hold military working group meeting
- China, Serbia vow to enhance military cooperation
- China commissioned its Third Aircraft Carrier 'Fujian'
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## PLA General Zhang Youxia visits Moscow

The visiting Chinese PLA General Zhang Youxia, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), [met](#) with the Russian Defense Minister Andrey Belousov in Moscow on November 20. The two sides discussed the bilateral military ties. According to the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, with his meeting with Zhang Youxia, Belousov [said](#) the two countries' defense ministries are implementing agreements reached at the leaders' summits, including further increasing joint military exercises. He added that the military cooperation with China is to ensure mutual security. The statement [issued](#) by the Chinese Ministry of National Defense (MND) said, the two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on the relations between the two countries and the two militaries, the international and regional situation and issues of common concern, and reached consensus of strengthening high-level exchanges and deepen practical cooperation.

## China, U.S. hold military working group meeting

As per the China-U.S. Military Maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA), the two navies [held](#) the second working group meeting from November 18 -20, in Hawaii, the United States. The statement issued by the Chinese Ministry of National Defense (MND), the two sides had a candid and constructive exchange of views primarily on maritime and aerial security situations of China and the United States. Both sides

reviewed typical cases of encounters at sea and in the air, and evaluated the execution of "Rules of Behavior for Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters", the statement said. The two sides also discussed measures to improve maritime military security between the two countries. They [agreed](#) that the MMCA mechanism since its inception has helped frontline forces of the two militaries interact more professionally, reduce misunderstandings, avoid misjudgments, and manage risks. The Chinese official statement reiterated its firm opposition to any actions carried out under the pretext of freedom of navigation or overflight that could jeopardize China's sovereignty and security.

## China, Serbia vow to enhance military cooperation

The visiting Serbian Defense Minister Bratislav Gašić [met](#) with the Chinese counter-part in Beijing on November 5. At the meeting, the Chinese defense minister expressed the country's willingness to work with Serbia for practical cooperation between the two militaries. The Serbian defense minister confirms that his country will continue to deepen cooperation with the Chinese military in various fields. On the second day of his visit to Beijing, the Serbian minister Gašić also [met](#) Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on November 6. Zhang Youxia spoke highly of the bilateral military ties, and expressed that China is willing to work with Serbia to enhance strategic communication, deepen

strategic communication, enrich cooperation content, and improve the quality and efficiency of cooperation. He suggested for a military cooperation that is more dynamic, broader in scope and higher in quality. In turn, Gašić [said](#), “The support that China provides to our country in defending its territorial integrity and sovereignty is particularly important, since we are witnessing daily violations of fundamental human rights and principles based on the UN Charter in Kosovo and Methohija by the provisional institutions of Priština.” At the same time, he expected Chinese military cooperation in the military-technical field to improve Serbian defense capabilities.

### **China commissioned its Third Aircraft Carrier ‘Fujian’**

China [commissioned](#) its third aircraft carrier ‘Fujian’ (Type 003) at a naval port in Sanya, Hainan Province, on November 5, 2025. Xi Jinping’s presence at the commissioning ceremony marked the significance of the aircraft carrier. He delivered a speech and also inspected the aircraft carrier. The ‘Fujian’ aircraft carrier is first of its kind with a [combination](#) of electromagnetic catapult launch system (EMALS) and conventional power system. With EMALS system, the aircraft carrier can carry a variety of new carrier-based aircraft, including fixed-wing carrier-based drones, heavy carrier-based fighter jets, and fixed-wing carrier-based warning aircraft. Key specifications include an estimated 80,000 tonne displacement, a length of over 315 meters,

a width of over 75 meters, and a capacity of more than 50 aircraft of various types, making it China’s largest aircraft carrier. The carrier has a straight and long flight deck, 4 arresting cables, and 3 catapult launch positions. A week after its commissioning, the ‘Fujian’ aircraft carrier [conducted](#) its first life-force maritime training mission in mid-November. The carrier was part of a Chinese carrier strike group comprising multiple vessels including guided-missile destroyer Yan’an (Hull 106) and guided-missile frigate Tongliao (Hull 554). The training mission tested the full-deck operational capability of the Fujian aircraft carrier by conducting electromagnetic catapult-assisted takeoff and arrested landing of multiple types of carrier-based aircraft such as the J-15T heavy fighter jet, J-15DT electronic warfare aircraft, J-35 stealth fighter jet, and KJ-600 early warning aircraft.

### **39th China-Vietnam Joint Patrol in Beibu Gulf Concludes**

The naval fleets of China and Vietnam [concluded](#) 39th joint patrol in the waters of the Beibu Gulf on November 20, 2025. This joint exercise is in [line](#) with existing bilateral agreements and the annual cooperation schedule. The two-day joint patrol covered a total distance of over 330 nautical miles. Chinese naval fleet comprised of guided-missile frigate Guangyuan (Hull 649) and the Type 056A corvette Aba (Hull 630). Vietnam sent two Petya-class frigates for joint patrol. The two navies met along the maritime

boundary line between China and Vietnam in the Beibu Gulf for the joint patrol exercise. They conducted sailing, tactical communication drills, identification procedures, controlled approaches, and maritime alert maneuvers, with the aim of strengthening interoperability and joint response capabilities. Besides, the two naval fleets also carried out a simulated search and rescue exercise. The joint patrol focused on detecting, tracking, and assessing surface contacts, along with basic anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare training. The two countries started this joint patrol of the Beibu Gulf to enhance coordination during contingencies and to reinforce communication channels between the two navies. In fact, the Beibu Gulf is a maritime area of high strategic importance for both China and Vietnam because of its proximity to major ports for maritime commerce and transit.

### **Chinese Amphibious Assault Ship ‘Sichuan’ Completes First Sea-trial**

PLA Navy’s Type 076 amphibious assault ship ‘Sichuan’ [carried](#) out its first three-day navigation test mission on November 16, 2025. A series of tests were [carried out](#) on the power, electrical and other systems and equipment of the ship to verify reliability and stability of the vessel. The ‘Sichuan’ amphibious assault ship was launched by the PLA Navy in December 2024 and since then, it has undergone several rounds of testing and trials. The ship has completed its mooring test, meaning the ship was fixed at the port pier

and operated at maximum power to test its power, electrical, electronic, and weapon systems. Key specifications of the ‘Sichuan’ ship include its full-load displacement of over 40,000 tonnes with a dual-island superstructure and full-length deck. This ship is first of its kind and is equipped with electromagnetic catapult system (EMALS), enabling it to carry fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and amphibious equipment. Once [commissioned](#), the ship will carry J-35 stealth fighters, KJ-600 airborne early-warning aircraft, UAVs, and multiple types of helicopters and landing craft.