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- **Russia and China held “substantive” defense and military talks**
- **Defense attachés visit Chinese PLA Eastern Theater Command**
- **Chinese – Russian Coast Guard holds second high-level meeting**
- **China and Australia held the 9th Defense Coordination Dialogue**
- **The 11th Army International Student Week opened in Nanjing**
- **Zhang Youxia ended his visit to Vietnam and signed a defense cooperation agreement**

Russia and China held “substantive” defense and military talks

Russia and China held “[substantive](#)” defense and military talks to bolster ties. On October 14, Russian Defense Minister [Andrey Removich Belousov](#) arrived in Beijing to “hold a number of negotiations with the country’s military and military-political leadership” during the visit. Meeting between the two sides was held on October 15 in Beijing, and Belousov led the Russian delegation and the Chinese delegation was led by Zhang Youxia. Vice Chairman of the China’s Central Military Commission, and the two sides vowed to [strengthen their cooperation](#). The two countries have “common views, a common assessment of the situation, and a common understanding of what we need to do together,” defense minister Andrey Belousov told Zhang Youxia. Their task is to “strengthen and develop” their strategic partnership, Belousov said. During the meeting Zhang Youxia repeated rhetoric voiced by Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin calling for the two militaries to “deepen and expand military-to-military relations, safeguard their respective national sovereignty, security and development interests, and jointly safeguard international and regional peace and stability”. Belousov also held talks a day earlier with Chinese Defense Minister [Dong Jun](#), who ranks below Zhang Youxia in China’s military hierarchy. During the meeting, Dong Jun the Chinese and Russian militaries should deepen strategic coordination, improve the cooperation, push forward the military-to-military relations, safeguard the common interests of the two countries, and jointly maintain global strategic stability. The Russian defense minister’s trip comes ahead of an expected visit by Xi Jinping to Kazan, Russia from October 22 to 24. China and

Russia declared a “no-limits” partnership in February 2022 when Vladimir Putin visited Beijing less than weeks before his forces launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In May this year, Putin and Xi Jinping pledged a “new era” of partnership between the two most powerful rivals of the United States, which they cast as an aggressive Cold War hegemon sowing chaos across the world.

Defense attachés from over 60 countries visit Chinese PLA Eastern Theater Command

[Defense attaches](#) from more than 60 countries including Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Jordan, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Kazakhstan, Canada and Argentina went to the PLA Eastern Theatre Command on October 14 to 19 for a six-day visit. The delegates visited the [PLA Army Infantry College](#) and were briefed about the college’s curriculum. The delegations were also taken to watch an air force exercise carried out by the Eastern Theater Command Air Force. During the visit, the military attaches were more interested to know about China’s deployment of troops, the location of the command organization, the stationing of troops, the level of military construction, the management of troops, the level of combat etc. By inviting military officers stationed in China from various countries to participate in the Eastern Theatre Command, China can take this opportunity to explain its position and policy on the Taiwan issue. The countries on China’s invitation list can be roughly divided into three categories: one is China’s firm supporters, the second is neutral countries, and the third is “[hostile countries](#)”. Chinese media claims that by opening the PLA Eastern Theatre Command to military attaches from other countries for visit, China shows that they

already have sufficient capabilities to deal with all possible risks.

Chinese Coast Guard holds second high-level meeting with Russian Federal Security Service

On October 21, China Coast Guard and Russian Federal Security Service held the 2nd high-level meeting between China and Russia Coast Guard in Beijing. The meeting was co-chaired by Yu Zhong (郁忠), Director of China Coast Guard, and Admiral Roman Tolok, Deputy Director of the Border Guard Bureau of the Russian Federal Security Service and Director of the Coast Guard Department. This maritime joint exercise between China and Russia is part of their [MoU](#) on strengthening China Coast Guard (CCG) and Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) signed in Murmansk, Russia in April this year. After the meeting, the Russian Federal Security Service delegation visited the Qingdao Coast Guard Agency. Following their joint patrols in the [Arctic and northern Pacific Ocean](#) last month, the Chinese and Russian coastguards have pledged to increase their coordination on “far seas”. During the joint maritime patrol in the northern Pacific and the Arctic—for the first time the Chinese coastguard has entered the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic’s Northwest Passage holds significant strategic and commercial interest for China and Russia, as well as the United States. It links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans but is only open for a few months of the year, when the ice has melted enough to make it accessible to ships. However, melting ice from climate change raises the possibility of a permanent sea lane, which would cut shipping time between Europe and Asia. Chinese Premier Li Qiang and his Russian counterpart Mikhail Mishustin signed a joint communique in August agreeing to develop Arctic shipping routes. In April this year,

the two sides signed the “Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the China Coast Guard and the Russian Federal Security Service on Strengthening Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation” and observed the “Arctic Cruise 2023” maritime combat exercise.

China and Australia held the 9th Defense Coordination Dialogue

On 17 October, the [Australia – China Defense Coordination Dialogue](#) was held in Beijing, China. Bernard Philip, First Assistant Secretary International Policy, Department of Defense, and Major General Ye Jiang, Deputy Director of the Central Military Commission Office for International Military Cooperation, met for the dialogue along with their respective delegations. The two sides exchanged views on the relationship between the two militaries, maritime and air security, and [international and regional security issues](#) of common concern, and consulted on promoting practical exchanges and cooperation between the two militaries. The Defence Coordination Dialogue is an officials’ level meeting between Australia’s Department of Defense and China’s PLA on regional security issues. Australia raised the importance of operating in a safe and professional manner at all times to avoid the risk of miscalculation or escalation and raised issues regarding the South China Sea. Australia underscored the importance of adherence to international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Australia also outlined the importance of all countries acting in a manner that respects sovereignty and upholds regional peace and stability. In March this year, the [8th China-Australia Defense Coordination Dialogue](#) was resumed after a gap of four years after the consensus built between the two foreign ministers last year. Previously, a series of

incidents occurred between the two countries' militaries, including Australia accusing Chinese naval ships of illuminating Australian patrol aircraft with lasers and Chinese fighter jets intercepting Australian reconnaissance aircraft. After meeting with his Chinese counterpart in 2023, Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles said he was eager to resume the interrupted defense dialogue between the two countries.

The 11th Army International Student Week opened in Nanjing

The [11th Army International Cadets Week](#) hosted by the China's Army Engineering University opened in Nanjing. More than [80 cadets](#) from military academies in 16 foreign countries including Argentina, Egypt, Italy, Pakistan, Singapore and 11 Chinese army academies participated in a week-long study, training, exchange activities and visiting events in mixed groups. The event is themed "[How to become a competent junior commander for future warfare](#)", and a special seminars was conducted on "Artificial Intelligence and Military Command" and "Challenges of Future Wars". The week will also feature competitions focused on commanding combat units and live-fire shooting. Since its launch in 2005, the previous installations of the International Army Cadets Week have attracted over 260 military school representatives from nearly 30 countries. Its main objectives are showcasing the educational achievements of PLA Army / Ground Force academies, enhancing understanding and trust between Chinese and foreign academies, and deepening international military education exchanges and cooperation. This event is aimed to promote mutual understanding and trust between Chinese and foreign military academies and deepening international

exchanges and cooperation in military education.

Zhang Youxia ended his visit to Vietnam and signed a defense cooperation agreement

During his visit to Hanoi on October 24, [Zhang Youxia](#) held high-level meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, President [Luong Cuong](#), Vietnamese Defense Minister Phan Van Giang, and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam To Lam. General Phan Van Giang highlighted the strengthened land border cooperation and also emphasized the cooperation between the two navies, coast guards, military schools and academies, and also in education – training, strategic research, and U.N. peacekeeping operations as well as the close coordination, consultation and mutual support at regional and international multilateral forums and defence cooperation mechanisms. At the end of the talks, the two defence militaries signed cooperation documents, including the letter of intent on strengthening defence cooperation and the agreement on border cooperation, but the specific content was not disclosed. According to the report of Vietnam Express, this agreement should include: "[promoting defense and security cooperation](#), especially high-tech transfer, human resource training, information and research result exchanges, and continuing to cooperate in the management of land and sea borders." On October 26, Pham Minh Chinh suggested that both sides strictly implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC), and conclude the negotiations on the "Code of Conduct in the East Sea" as soon as possible. (The disputed waters are called the East Sea by Vietnam and the South China Sea by China.)