

October 10, 2024

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

**An Initiative by the Nuclear and Arms Control Centre,
MP-IDSA**



Special blessings sent from Tiangong Space Station to celebrate National Day; next crew scheduled for late October

Global Times, October 1, 2024

To mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Shenzhou-18 crew sent special blessings from space. The Shenzhou-18 crew, who have been on duty at the Tiangong Space Station for more than five months, will welcome the arrival of Shenzhou-19 for the fifth in-orbit crew rotation by late October, the China Manned Space Agency said. Mission commander Ye Guangfu and crew members Li Cong and Li Guangsu entered the Chinese space station on April 26.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1320632.shtml>

Chinese naval ships open to public tours during National Day holiday

Xinhua, October 1, 2024

A batch of Chinese naval ships were open to public tours in the coastal city of Qingdao, Shandong Province, as the country celebrates the 75th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China. This is the first time Chinese naval ships have been open to the public on a large scale during the National Day holiday, according to the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy. The ships on display are all active-duty vessels that were independently designed and built in China. The PLA Navy is also hosting similar open days in south China's Guangdong Province and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region during the National Day holiday.

<https://english.news.cn/20241001/789fb05a1f8949f4baecc3cf0e769ca3/c.html>

What reports got wrong about China's 'sunken nuclear submarine'

J. Michael Dahm and Peter W. Singer

Defence One, October 2, 2024

The purported sinking of a Chinese nuclear submarine at a Wuhan shipyard pier is the latest example of Western reporting on military developments in China that overlooks important details and context, or even takes the wrong lessons from the fragments of stories they tell. The incident, which took place in June, drew some mention the following month on social media and even in the defense press, but it went viral after a Sept. 26 report in the Wall Street Journal touched off coverage from Fox News to CBS.

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2024/10/chinas-sunken-nuclear-sub-was-likely-nothing-sort/400001/>

Vietnam condemns China's 'brutal behaviour' in fisher attack

Channel News Asia, October 2, 2024

Vietnam's foreign ministry condemned China's "brutal behaviour" during a violent attack on Vietnamese fishers in the disputed South China Sea. The 10 fishermen were reportedly beaten with iron bars and robbed of thousands of dollars worth of fish and equipment on Sunday off the Paracel Islands – an archipelago in the resource-rich waterway claimed by China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei. Vietnam "resolutely protests the brutal behaviour of Chinese law enforcement forces against Vietnamese fishermen and fishing vessels operating in the Hoang Sa archipelago of Vietnam", foreign ministry spokesperson for Vietnam Pham Thu Hang said in a statement, using the Vietnamese term for the Paracel Islands.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/vietnam-fishermen-attacked-south-china-sea-state-media-4654081>

Escalating contest over South China Sea disrupts international cable system

Rebecca Tan

The Washington Post, October 3, 2024

Undersea cables below the South China Sea have long provided vital connectivity to countries in Southeast Asia as demand for internet service has surged. As China presses its claim over most of the strategic waterway, companies have found it harder to get approval from Beijing to operate there and riskier to do so without Chinese permission, said executives at cable companies, consultants and government regulators. Some cable repairs have been delayed months because of lags in Chinese permitting. At least two new cable projects are years overdue.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/10/03/south-china-sea-underwater-cables/>

China 'profoundly unhelpful' as it ignored chance to cooperate: US diplomat

Mark Magnier

South China Morning Post, October 3, 2024

In November, when Yemen's Houthi rebels started firing drones and missiles at commercial ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden as the Middle East war heated up, Washington finally thought it had an issue it could cooperate closely with China on, a senior US diplomat said. China has a huge volume of shipping passing through the dangerous waters, the attacks were a major threat to global stability and China was in a position to use their squadron in Djibouti as they did fighting piracy in the 1990s, said Kurt Campbell, deputy secretary at the US State Department.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/3280859/china-profoundly-unhelpful-it-ignored-chance-cooperate-us-diplomat>

Philippines condemns China attack of Vietnamese fishermen

Voice of America, October 4, 2024

The Philippines denounced China's alleged assault of Vietnamese fishermen in the South China Sea, where Manila and Beijing are also locked in violent confrontations that have led to fears of armed conflict. Vietnam has accused "Chinese law enforcement forces" of beating the 10 fishermen with iron bars and robbing them of thousands of dollars' worth of fish and equipment off the Paracel Islands. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson acknowledged an incident took place there but disputed the Vietnamese version of the events. China and Vietnam both claim the Paracel Islands, but the Philippines does not. "We strongly condemn the violent and illegal actions of Chinese maritime authorities against Vietnamese fishermen near the Paracel Islands on September 29, 2024," Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano said in a statement.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/philippines-condemns-china-attack-of-vietnamese-fishermen-/7810817.html>

China develops Aegis-like Ballistic Missile Defence for its Type 055 Destroyers

Kris Osborn

Warrior Maven, October 4, 2024

The Chinese Navy has commissioned its 8th quasi-stealthy, high-tech and heavily armed Type-055 Destroyer, a development likely noticed by the Pentagon as the PRC Navy continues to accelerate both ship production quantity as well as advanced technology development. Built with what looks like a curved US Navy Zumwalt-like stealthy configuration, China's Type-055 destroyer looks like a hybrid blend between the stealthy Zumwalt-class destroyers and greatly up-gunned U.S. Navy DDG 51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers. It has concentrated Vertical Launch Systems, a smoother, straighter hull configuration with fewer radar signature-increasing protruding structures such as guns on the side, deck masts or antennas.

<https://warrriormaven.com/china/china-develops-aegis-like-ballistic-missile-defense-for-its-type-055-destroyers>

China and North Korea mark 75th anniversary of ties

Hyung-Jin Kim

The Washington Post, October 5, 2024

The leaders of North Korea and China marked the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations by exchanging messages that expressed hopes for stronger ties, as outsiders raised questions about their relationship. The message exchange came as North Korea and Russia have been sharply

expanding their cooperation while China apparently keeps its distance. Experts say that the level of exchanges and commemorative programs between North Korea and China in the coming months will provide a clue to the exact status of their ties.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/10/05/north-korea-kim-china-xi/24fe2916-8397-11ef-90f2-d1fc6303655d_story.html

Two British men plead not guilty to charges of spying for China

Nikkei Asia, October 5, 2024

Two Britons, including a former researcher for a senior British lawmaker, pleaded not guilty to a charge of spying for China. Anxiety has mounted across Europe about China's alleged espionage activity -- which Beijing has repeatedly denied -- and Britain has become increasingly vocal about its concerns, alleging numerous spying activities. In June, China accused the British foreign intelligence service MI6 of recruiting two staff members from unnamed Chinese central state bodies to act as spies for the British government.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/2-British-men-plead-not-guilty-to-charges-of-spying-for-China>

New US missile built to pierce China's A2/AD bubble

Gabriel Honrada

Asia Times, October 5, 2024

The US has unveiled a next-generation air-to-air missile, signaling a potent new weapon to counter China's expanding Anti-Access/Area-Denial (A2/AD) strategies around Taiwan and the wider South China Sea. This month, The War Zone reported the US Navy has confirmed the existence of the AIM-174 missile, an air-launched variant of the SM-6 surface-to-air missile that marks a new chapter in its long-range defense capabilities.

<https://asiatimes.com/2024/10/new-us-missile-built-to-pierce-chinas-a2-ad-bubble/>

China claims breakthrough in silicon photonics that could clear technical hurdle

Xinmei Shen

South China Morning Post, October 6, 2024

A state-funded semiconductor lab in China said it has achieved a "milestone" in the development of silicon photonics, which could help the country overcome current technical barriers in chip

design and achieve self-sufficiency amid US sanctions. JFS Laboratory – based in Wuhan, capital of central Hubei province and a national base for photonics research – was able to light up a laser light source integrated with a silicon-based chip, the first time this was successfully done in China, according to a blog post published by the lab.

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/tech-war/article/3281156/chip-war-china-claims-breakthrough-silicon-photonics-could-clear-technical-hurdle>

China hacked major U.S. telecom firms in apparent counterspy operation

Ellen Nakashima

The Washington Post, October 6, 2024

Chinese hackers have breached at least three major U.S. telecommunications providers in what appears to be an audacious espionage operation likely aimed in part at discovering the Chinese targets of American surveillance, according to U.S. officials. The investigation by the FBI, U.S. intelligence agencies and the Department of Homeland Security is in its early stages. The full scope of the compromises and their impact is not yet known, said the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity. China has been actively targeting Western democracies, particularly the United States, for years — engaging in industrial and technological espionage as well efforts to learn politicians' and policymakers' plans and intentions.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/10/06/salt-typhoon-china-espionage-telecom/>

What does China's first Arctic coastguard patrol with Russia reveal about its ambitions?

Seong Hyeon Choi

South China Morning Post, October 6, 2024

The China Coast Guard's first entry into the Arctic Sea during joint operations with its Russian counterpart showed an ability to operate far from its coast and a heightened level of cooperation with Moscow, analysts said. The vessels' entry into the sea coincided with the National Day holiday marking the 75th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Four ships – including the Chinese vessels Meishan and Xiushan – had travelled to the Arctic from the north Pacific, CCTV said, in what was the first joint coastguard exercise between the two countries. According to the Chinese coastguard, the operation “significantly expanded the range of offshore operations, thoroughly tested vessels' ability to carry out missions in unfamiliar waters and provided strong support for actively participating in international and regional maritime governance”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3281228/what-does-chinas-first-arctic-coastguard-patrol-russia-reveal-about-its-ambitions>

Chinese embassy says citizens killed in Pakistan 'terrorist attack'

Nikkei Asia, October 7, 2024

Two Chinese nationals were killed in an explosion near the international airport of the southern Pakistani city of Karachi, the Chinese embassy in Pakistan said, in what it described as a "terrorist attack." In a statement emailed to journalists, separatist militant group Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed the explosion was an attack carried out by them using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device targeting Chinese nationals, including engineers. The Chinese embassy said a convoy from the Port Qasim Electric Power Company was attacked near the airport.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Terrorism/Chinese-embassy-says-citizens-killed-in-Pakistan-terrorist-attack>

China is rapidly building warships. Satellite images reveal the scale

Brady Africk and Mackenzie Eaglen

The Washington Post, October 7, 2024

China has been investing so much in shipbuilding over the past 18 years that it can now build more ships in a month than the United States can in a year — and Beijing aims to keep widening its advantage. If the U.S. military does not soon catch up to this capacity, it risks finding itself off-guard and ill-equipped in a conflict scenario. China's recent expansions should alarm American military planners and spur investments to bolster naval power. Satellite imagery reveals the recent major expansions that have made China's shipbuilding infrastructure the most robust in the world.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/10/07/china-shipbuilding-navy-military/>

China calls for tighter security after workers are killed in Pakistan

Salman Masood

The New York Times, October 7, 2024

Two Chinese nationals were killed and another was injured after a convoy was attacked in Karachi, the largest city in Pakistan, on Sunday, adding to concerns over the safety of Chinese workers involved in major projects in the South Asian nation. The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad said the convoy was carrying Chinese workers from the Port Qasim Electric Power Company, a nearby coal-fired power plant. The Chinese Embassy condemned the attack on Monday, calling it a "terrorist act" and urging Pakistan to increase security for Chinese citizens and projects in the country. The Karachi explosion adds to a growing list of attacks on Chinese interests in Pakistan.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/07/world/asia/pakistan-chinese-workers.html>

China's 'wiser' long-term strategy paves way to No 1 world power: Kishore Mahbubani

Dewey Sim

South China Morning Post, October 7, 2024

The pressure on China has not subsided in any significant way. And here, the main problem with the Biden administration – or the US government in general – is that it seems to have mounted a campaign against China without any clear, comprehensive long-term strategy in mind. A strategy is intended to achieve certain goals. It is not clear what the goals of the Biden administration are – what would constitute a victory for the United States over China as a result of all these measures? That has never been spelled out.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3281151/chinas-wiser-long-term-strategy-paves-way-no-1-world-power-kishore-mahbubani>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on US's views about China

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, October 8, 2024

It's not the first time that US officials made these groundless remarks. We've made it clear more than once that major-country competition is not what the world needs and will by no means solve the US's own problems or address challenges facing the world. The US's view of the international landscape and its definition of relations with China through the lens of strategic competition show how the US clings to the Cold War mentality. Treating China as its long-term strategic competitor and pacing challenge shows how the US projects its own hegemonic history and mentality onto other countries. This severe misjudgment of China and China-US relations does not serve the fundamental interests of the two peoples or meet the common expectation of the international community.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202410/t20241008_11503873.html

MSS unveils how US slanders and frames Chinese scholars

Global Times, October 8, 2024

China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) disclosed the case of Tan Hongjin, a typical example of how US authorities distort facts, slander and frame individuals, and make improper accusations, while continuously exerting pressure to force a confession, revealing the malicious and absurd nature of the US' "China Initiative." In November 2018, the US Department of Justice launched the "China Initiative" as part of the US government's strategy to contain China. The initiative aimed to fabricate so-called "Chinese espionage cases." The US Department of Justice has been recklessly arresting Chinese-origin experts and scholars through malicious tactics, conducting

indiscriminate investigations and harassment, continuously hyping the "Chinese espionage threat," according to the MSS.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1320825.shtml>

China's nuclear shadow reaches Europe

RUSI, October 8, 2024

Many observers of European security still assume that China's nuclear arsenal build-up does not threaten European interests. Yet as China moves away from a minimalist nuclear force posture, the US must necessarily recalibrate its own strategy and posture. This has a grave bearing on NATO's deterrence construct, in which nearly all European allies depend on US nuclear weapons to provide for their fundamental security needs. China's nuclear expansion thus adds urgency to the need to adapt NATO's nuclear posture to the post-2022 environment.

<https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/chinas-nuclear-shadow-reaches-europe>

Chinese commerce minister, U.S. counterpart hold phone talks

CGTN, October 8, 2024

China's Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao urged the U.S. to lift sanctions on Chinese enterprises in a phone call with his American counterpart Gina Raimondo. Wang said it is crucial to clarify the boundaries of national security in economic and trade areas, as this would help maintain the stability and security of global industrial and supply chains while creating a favorable policy environment for cooperation between the industries of both countries. The economic and trade relationship between China and the United States should serve as a stabilizing anchor in the overall relations between the two countries, he said.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-10-08/Chinese-commerce-minister-U-S-commerce-secretary-hold-phone-talks-1xxv0vV35kY/p.html>

China scientists develop space battery that can run on Mars' atmosphere: paper

Holly Chik

South China Morning Post, October 8, 2024

Scientists in China say they have developed a lightweight, rechargeable battery for Mars exploration that could be powered by the Martian atmosphere while withstanding the planet's

extreme temperatures. The researchers, from the University of Science and Technology of China, said the battery was capable of “direct inhalation of the Mars atmosphere as fuel” during discharge and secondary charging by external solar and nuclear energy sources. According to the paper published by peer-reviewed journal Science Bulletin, the battery can run for more than 1,350 hours – nearly two Martian months – at zero degrees Celsius (32 Fahrenheit). A day on Mars is around 40 minutes longer than on Earth.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3281325/china-scientists-develop-space-battery-can-run-mars-atmosphere-paper>

‘Chinese hacking threat’: a farce of US smear tactics against China

Global Times, October 8, 2024

The US is particularly keen on discrediting China, and hyping up the "Chinese hacking threat" has practically become routine. Recently, US media outlets once again "revealed" that Chinese hackers "may have gained access to systems used by federal authorities for court-approved eavesdropping" and "breached at least three major US telecommunications providers." Notably, these accusations lack any concrete evidence to substantiate them. They rely solely on vague terms like "may," "potentially" or "premature," which offer no substantive proof.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1320848.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on DPRK’s resolve to cut off roads and railways connected to the ROK

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, October 9, 2024

China is following the developments on the Korean Peninsula and DPRK-ROK relations. China believes that upholding peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and advancing the political settlement process of the Korean Peninsula issue serves the common interests of all parties and it is what the international community expects. All parties need to work together for this end.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202410/t20241009_11504302.html

China achieves breakthrough in low-temperature distillation of boron-10 isotopes to support nuclear safety

Global Times, October 9, 2024

Chinese scientists have achieved a breakthrough in low-temperature distillation of boron-10 isotopes to stably produce enriched boron-10 products with an abundance of 70 percent,

significantly enhancing China's capacity for large-scale production of boron isotopes and providing strong support for the safe and orderly development of the country's nuclear power industry. According to China Institute of Atomic Energy (CIAE) of China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), who developed the technology with China's completely independent intellectual property right, boron-10 possesses excellent neutron absorption characteristics and can be used as a neutron absorber or radiation shielding material in nuclear reactors for reactivity control and in emergency shutdown systems, playing an important role in the field of nuclear industry, People's Daily reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1320888.shtml>

Report to Congress on Chinese nuclear weapons

U.S. Naval Institute Staff, October 9, 2024

The U.S. government has for decades expressed concerns about China's proliferation of nuclear- and missile-related technologies to other countries, with more recent focus on the threat of Chinese acquisition of U.S.-origin nuclear technology. Official U.S. government sources indicate that the Chinese government has ended its direct involvement in the transfer of nuclear- and missile-related items, but China-based companies and individuals continue to export goods relevant to those items, particularly to Iran and North Korea. U.S. officials have also raised concerns about entities operating in China that provide other forms of support for proliferation-sensitive activities, such as illicit finance and money laundering.

<https://news.usni.org/2024/10/09/report-to-congress-on-chinese-nuclear-weapons>

Nation to launch satellite able to carry multiple payloads

Liu Caiyu

Global Times, October 9, 2024

Chinese remote-sensing commercial satellite manufacturer Changguang Satellite Technology is scheduled to launch its "Jilin-1" platform 02A03 satellite in October at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, which is capable of supporting multiple payloads, the Global Times learnt from the satellite manufacturer. A departure ceremony for the "Jilin-1" platform 02A03 satellite was held in the Jilin Aerospace Information Industrial Park in Changchun, Northeast China's Jilin Province. The satellite is a low-cost, high-capacity, high-resolution shared remote sensing satellite developed independently by Changguang Satellite Technology, China's first commercial remote sensing satellite company.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1320920.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on China's views about South China Sea situation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, October 10, 2024

With the joint effort of China and ASEAN countries, the situation in the South China Sea is generally stable. China remains committed to settling maritime differences with countries concerned through dialogue and consultation on the basis of respecting historical facts and international law. Meanwhile, China firmly opposes any infringement activities and provocations, and firmly safeguards its own territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests. China will continue to work with ASEAN countries to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, actively advance the consultations of the code of conduct in the South China Sea, and jointly make the South China Sea a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202410/t20241010_11504992.html

Beyond the politics, China's missile test reflects military need

Greg Torode

Reuters, October 10, 2024

From a missile discreetly ferried more than 1,000 km (620 miles) to a launch site, to the use of remote bases and satellites to track it from Hainan Island to the South Pacific, China's September ICBM flight marked a test of operational necessity. Six security analysts and four diplomats evaluating the Sept. 25 launch said that although the rare test carried political messaging amid China's nuclear weapons buildup, it also met a long-overdue need for the People's Liberation Army's Rocket Force to ensure its nuclear deterrent worked as advertised.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/beyond-politics-chinas-missile-test-reflects-military-need-2024-10-09/>

Lai Ching-te's strategic miscalculation is dangerous, leads to nowhere

Zhang Hua

Global Times, October 10, 2024

Instead of seeking reconciliation with opposition parties or respecting other political forces to address challenges, Lai has chosen to pressure, split and even coerce the opposition into submission, a strategy that has proven ineffective. Although a few politicians from the KMT party and the TPP have echoed Lai's calls regarding the "motherland fallacy," most opposition forces

and public opinion remain critical of Lai, and there is no indication that the KMT or the TPP will make concessions to Lai in the island's political arena.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1320971.shtml>

Premier Li says China firmly supports building of ASEAN Community

CGTN, October 10, 2024

China firmly supports the building of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Community, as well as ASEAN's central position in regional cooperation and its greater role in international affairs, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said in Vientiane. China is ready to have in-depth exchanges of views with all parties on major regional cooperative issues and contribute to joint efforts in making the region an important engine for global development, he added. In the statement, Li noted that since the beginning of this year, Laos has actively played a leading role as the rotating chair of ASEAN, focusing on practical cooperation, building consensus among all parties, and pushing for new progress and new achievements in the building of ASEAN Community and East Asia cooperation.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-10-09/Chinese-premier-lands-in-Vientiane-for-leaders-meetings-on-East-Asia-cooperation-visit-1xz41Hs0vcY/p.html>

China's great submarine sinking: What we know and why it matters

Brent Sadler

The Heritage Foundation, October 10, 2024

Earlier this year, naval experts tracking developments of China's military noticed from satellite imagery a new class of submarine being built at Wuchang Shipyard, a yard in Wuhan known for constructing conventional submarines. Last Spring, satellite imagery detected barges and floating cranes at the new sub's pier. A year ago, similar stories of a lost Chinese nuclear submarine were being reported. That case involved the loss in the Yellow Sea of a nuclear submarine ensnared by seafloor devices and corroborated by United Kingdom government sources. The details of that story never had compelling satellite imagery nor naval activity to corroborate the loss or even a recovery. As the story gained traction, eventually a Taiwan Ministry of Defense spokesman denied there was evidence to back up this story.

<https://www.heritage.org/china/commentary/chinas-great-submarine-sinking-what-we-know-and-why-it-matters>

Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak

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