SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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



Chinese Foreign Ministry on deployment of Typhoon Mid-Range Capability missile system in the Philippines

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, October 11, 2024

The US transported the Typhon Mid-Range Capability missile system to the Philippines this April. It was the first time the US deployed Mid-Range Capability missile system outside its territory and in the Asia-Pacific since the end of the Cold War. It was also the first time the US deployed strategic weapon of this kind after it withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 2019. The deployment of offensive strategic weapon at other countries' doorstep by a nuclear power seriously disrupts regional peace and stability, undermines other countries' legitimate security interest, and contravenes people's aspiration for peace and development.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202410/t20241011 11505651.html

China sends inter-agency group to handle terrorist attack in Pakistan

Wang Qingyun

China Daily, October 11, 2024

China has sent an inter-agency working group to Pakistan to handle the aftermath of a recent terrorist attack against a convoy of the Coal-fired Power Plant at Port Qasim. The working group met intensively with heads of Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, and military, police and intelligence departments, the spokesperson said in a statement. The group asked the Pakistani side to properly handle ensuing matters; make every effort to save the injured; conduct thorough investigations; bring all the perpetrators to justice; and step up security measures to ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202410/11/WS67089b91a310f1265a1c7154.html

China's Ministry of State Security warns against risks of idle network devices as targets for overseas espionage

Global Times, October 11, 2024

China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) published an article to remind the public not to ignore the security of the idle network devices, as national security agencies discovered that overseas espionage organizations have been frequently targeting idle and discarded network equipment for cyberattacks in recent years, resulting in some network devices becoming "backdoors" for data leaks, posing a serious threat to China's network security and data safety. With the rapid development of the internet, the scale of network devices has grown exponentially. The swift

evolution of network technology and applications has accelerated the iteration and upgrading of network equipment, leading to a significant rise in idle and discarded network devices, the MSS said in the article.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1321040.shtml

China launches third high-orbit internet services satellite

Xinhua, October 11, 2024

China sent a new high-orbit internet services satellite into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the country's southwestern Sichuan Province. The satellite was launched aboard a Long March-3B carrier rocket and then entered its preset orbit. It is the third member of an internet delivery high-orbit satellite group. The launch was the 538th mission of the Long March carrier rocket series, the launch centre said.

https://english.news.cn/20241011/6ef2ec4911294be7af14ac2d8a93394c/c.html

Chinese Foreign Ministry on China-ASEAN Summit and ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in Laos

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, October 11, 2024

At the China-ASEAN Summit, Premier Li Qiang noted that the China-ASEAN relationship has gone far beyond the bilateral scope and taken on great significance for Asia and the world at large. We need to tap into the advantage of China's and ASEAN's super-sized markets, and explore more ways and means to connect and share our market, so as to build stronger and more sustainable driving forces for development. China is ready to work with ASEAN countries to create a multidimensional connectivity network, enhance infrastructure cooperation, tap the cooperation potential in new industries and deepen people-to-people and cultural exchanges to build a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202410/t20241011 11505651.html

White House forms emergency team to deal with China espionage hack

Ellen Nakashima

The Washington Post, October 11, 2024

The Biden administration this week stood up a multi-agency team to confront a growing crisis involving Chinese cyberattacks of U.S. telecommunications companies believed to be for

intelligence gathering. The breach now has affected "about 10 or 12" companies, two people familiar with the investigation said, speaking like others interviewed for this article on the condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity. The people did not specify if the companies were all American firms or if some were subsidiaries. At least three major companies were breached: AT&T, Verizon and Lumen. All have declined to comment.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/10/11/china-hack-telecoms-salt-typhoon/

China's 'New Great Wall' casts a shadow on Nepal

Hannah Beech and Bhadra Sharma

The New York Times, October 12, 2024

The Chinese fence traces a furrow in the Himalayas, its barbed wire and concrete ramparts separating Tibet from Nepal. Here, in one of the more isolated places on earth, China's security cameras keep watch alongside armed sentries in guard towers. High on the Tibetan Plateau, the Chinese have carved a 600-feet-long message on a hillside: "Long live the Chinese Communist Party," inscribed in characters that can be read from orbit. Just across the border, in Nepal's Humla District, residents contend that along several points of this distant frontier, China is encroaching on Nepali territory.

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/10/12/world/asia/china-nepal-borders.html

China retrieves its first reusable satellite in a quest to cut space research costs

Zhang Tong

South China Morning Post, October 12, 2024

China recovered its first reusable experimental satellite, retrieving its scientific payload and equipment after two weeks in orbit. The China National Space Administration said the Shijian-19 satellite met its targets on various technological fronts, from reusability to payload ratio and reentry. "Shijian-19 is ... an efficient platform for research in microgravity science and space life sciences," state broadcaster CCTV reported. "Additionally, the Shijian-19 satellite provided an inorbit flight test verification opportunity for domestically produced components and materials. "The flight tests verified the technical specifications of a new generation of high-performance, reusable space experiment platforms."

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3282123/china-retrieves-its-first-reusable-satellite-quest-cut-space-research-costs

Chinese Type 09IIIB nuclear powered attack submarine surfaces in clearest image yet

Alex Luck

Naval News, October 13, 2024

A new image circulating on Chinese social media and subsequently on "X" revealed more details on the new Type 09IIIB nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN) produced at Chinese shipyard Bohai in Huludao for the Chinese Navy (PLAN). The image shows the new submarine underway, presumably taken from a boat or coastal location nearby. It is only the second ground-based photo of the new generation SSN, with previous imagery being exclusively satellite-sourced. The new photo shows a very streamlined design, notably improved from earlier Type 09III-variants. Armament including the much speculated upon VLS remains obscured by inherent nature of perspective, submarine design and low fidelity of the image.

https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2024/10/chinese-type-09iiib-nuclear-powered-submarine-surfaces-in-image/

The looming nuclear threat a call for global security reform

Global Times, October 13, 2024

Recent escalations in regional conflicts and confrontations have reignited global concerns about the danger of nuclear war. Sun Xiaobo, director-general of the Department of Arms Control of the Foreign Ministry of China, urged the international community on Thursday to establish "a world free of nuclear weapons." All countries and regions must collectively and deeply reflect on the existing security structures and their effectiveness in preventing nuclear proliferation and conflict. By fostering understanding, promoting cooperation and addressing the root causes of conflict, we can work toward a world free from the shadow of the nuclear threat - a human community with a shared future where security is achieved through collective commitment to peace.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1321154.shtml

'China is not Cuba's sugar daddy': ties between communist nations weaken

Ed Augustin

Financial Times, October 14, 2024

It is the only communist nation in the Americas, was the first in the western hemisphere to recognise the People's Republic of China and is described by Beijing as "good brother, good

comrade, good friend". But despite their shared political legacy — and what Washington says is a history of Chinese spying activity from Cuba — the island's economic collapse has hurt commercial ties with China just as Beijing's strategic rivalry intensifies with the Caribbean island's arch-enemy, the US. "China is not Cuba's sugar daddy," said Fulton Armstrong, former US national intelligence officer for Latin America. "It's mostly a relationship of solidarity statements. It's not a strategic relationship for either country."

https://www.ft.com/content/9ca0a495-d5d9-4cc5-acf5-43f42a9128b4

Chinese Foreign Ministry on military drills in the waters around Taiwan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, October 14, 2024

"Taiwan independence" is as incompatible with cross-Strait peace as fire with water, and provocations by "Taiwan independence" forces will be responded with countermeasures. China has always been committed to maintaining regional peace and stability, to which countries in this region bear witness. For anyone who cares about peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, they need to stand against "Taiwan independence" first and foremost. Taiwan is part of China, and the Taiwan question is China's internal affair that brooks no external interference.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202410/t20241014 11507287.html

PLA conducts joint drill surrounding Taiwan island to send stern warning to 'Taiwan independence' separatists

People's Daily Online, October 14, 2024

On October 14, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theater Command is dispatching its troops of army, navy, air force and rocket force to conduct joint military drills code-named Joint Sword-2024B in the Taiwan Straits and areas to the north, south and east of Taiwan island. The drill serves as a stern warning to the separatist acts of "Taiwan Independence" forces, Senior Captain Li Xi, spokesperson of the PLA Eastern Theater Command, said in a statement released. With vessels and aircraft approaching Taiwan island in close proximity from different directions, troops of multiple services engage in joint drills, focusing on subjects of sea-air combatreadiness patrol, blockade on key ports and areas, assault on maritime and ground targets, as well as joint seizure of comprehensive superiority, so as to test the joint operations capabilities of the theater command's troops, Li said.

http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1014/c90000-20229086.html

CCG conducts law enforcement patrols around Taiwan island; expert says drills aim to prevent separatists from fleeing

Global Times, October 14, 2024

The China Coast Guard (CCG) announced that its formations 2901, 1305, 1303 and 2102 conducted law enforcement patrols in the waters surrounding Taiwan island. Liu Dejun, spokesperson of the CCG, said that it is a concrete action to lawfully enforce control over Taiwan island in accordance with the one-China principle. On the same day, the Fujian Coast Guard said that it organised a formation of vessels to conduct comprehensive law enforcement patrols in the waters near the islands of Dongyin and Matsu. The patrols conducted by the Fujian Coast Guard focused on exercises such as verification and identification, boarding inspections, and control and expulsion operations. These activities were aimed at assessing rapid response and emergency handling capabilities, according to the CCG.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1321175.shtml

What is the DF-41 missile and how does it fit into China's ICBM programme?

Seong Hyeon Choi

South China Morning Post, October 15, 2024

When China conducted an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) test outside its airspace for the first time in 44 years last month, international attention zeroed in on advances in the country's rocketry programme. The missile used in the test is thought to have been a DF-31AG, a variant of a third-generation weapon that went into service about two decades ago. But the People's Liberation Army has developed an even more advanced kind of ICBM, the fourth-generation DF-41, which can go further and carry more warheads.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3282335/what-df-41-and-how-does-it-fit-chinas-icbm-programme

China releases Space Science Development Program for 2024-2050

Chen Na

Chinese Academy of Sciences, October 15, 2024

China unveiled a national mid and long-term development program for space science, which will guide the country's planning of space science missions and space research from 2024 to 2050. The program, the first of its kind at the national level, was jointly released by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the China National Space Administration (CNSA) and the China Manned Space

Agency (CMSA) at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office. The program outlines the development goals of China's space science, including 17 priority areas under five key scientific themes, as well as a three-phase roadmap. The five key scientific themes include the extreme universe, space-time ripples, panoramic view of Sun-Earth, habitable planets, and biological and physical sciences in space, Ding Chibiao, vice president of the CAS, said at the press conference.

https://english.cas.cn/newsroom/cas_media/202410/t20241015_691782.shtml

'Extreme situations': China's space superpower goals are being shaped by security concerns

Holly Chik

South China Morning Post, October 15, 2024

China is considering another inland site as it makes plans for a massive commercial spaceport – despite the advantages of its coastal facility in the southern island province of Hainan. According to the official Sichuan Daily newspaper, the new spaceport could be built in Mianning county in the southwestern province's Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, in line with China's strategy of strengthening its "strategic hinterland". The strategy was adopted by the third plenum – the party's key policy meeting in July – as a backup for aerospace and other strategic industries, as well as building up food and other reserves "to meet national strategic needs in extreme situations".

 $\underline{https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3282391/extreme-situations-chinas-space-superpower-goals-are-being-shaped-security-concerns}$

With jets and ships, China is honing its ability to choke Taiwan

David Pierson and Amy Chang Chien

The New York Times, October 16, 2024

The Chinese warplanes, deployed in record numbers, crossed an informal boundary between China and Taiwan. Chinese Coast Guard boats joined naval ships in encircling Taiwan. Fighter jets took off from an aircraft carrier parked off the island's east coast. The large-scale military drills China held this week were aimed at demonstrating its potential to choke Taiwan's access to food and fuel and block the skies and waters from which the United States and its allies would presumably approach in coming to the island's defence. China's tightening military squeeze on Taiwan is imposing a new normal — creating daily pressure that exhausts the island's defense forces and increases the incentive for Taiwan to capitulate without a fight.

https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/16/world/asia/china-taiwan-blockade-drills.html

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Premier Li Qiang's visit to Pakistan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, October 16, 2024

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and iron-clad friends. This is the second visit of China's Premier of the State Council to Pakistan in 11 years and marks an exchange of visits at the head-of-government level between the two countries within a year. Premier Li Qiang had in-depth discussions with the leaders from the Pakistani government, national assembly, and military.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202410/t20241016 11508459.html

China's openness about its latest nuclear missile test shows growing confidence vis-à-vis the United States

Hui Zhang

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, October 16, 2024

China's Ministry of National Defense announced last month that the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force (PLARF) had successfully launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) carrying a simulated warhead into the Pacific Ocean and that the missile accurately fell into the designated area. This was the first time since 1980 that China had test-fired an ICBM into international waters. But the test launch was part of routine annual training, the ministry added, in line with international law and international practice, and not directed against any country or target. Just as observers were vigorously speculating about the type of missile used in the test, China Junhao (China's military media wing) cut short the discussions, releasing pictures of the launch site—a very rare step given that the Chinese army has not made public a photo of the launch of a new ICBM for decades.

https://thebulletin.org/2024/10/chinas-openness-about-its-latest-nuclear-missile-test-shows-growing-confidence-vis-a-vis-the-united-states/

China launches new Earth observation satellite

China Daily, October 16, 2024

China sent a new Earth observation satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China. It will be used in a variety of fields including land surveys, urban planning, road network design, crop yield estimation and disaster relief. The launch marked the 540th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

https://www.chinadailyhk.com/hk/article/595401

How China used a 'paper tiger' to emerge as a nuclear weapon superpower

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, October 16, 2024

Sixty years ago, in the remote Lop Nur desert in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, China successfully detonated its first atomic bomb, code-named "Miss Qiu". The test, on October 16, 1964, and the fission chain reaction it triggered, melted the top half of a 120-metre (394 feet) high iron tower. It was a pivotal moment in China's pursuit of nuclear weapons. On Aug 6, 1946, one year after the Hiroshima bombing, Mao Zedong was interviewed by American journalist Anna Louise Strong. "The atomic bomb is a paper tiger used by the American reactionaries to scare people," said Mao, who described the new killer weapon as scary looking, but in fact toothless. "Of course, the atomic bomb is a weapon of mass slaughter, but it is the people, not one or two new weapons, that decide the outcome of a war," he explained.

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3282498/how-china-used-paper-tiger-emerge-nuclear-weapon-superpower

Chinese Foreign Ministry on its no-first-use nuclear policy

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, October 16, 2024

On October 16, 1964, the Chinese government made a solemn declaration to the world that it undertakes not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances. History and reality have proved that no-first-use of nuclear weapons is conducive to enhancing strategic mutual trust, advancing the nuclear disarmament process, effectively reducing strategic risks, and promoting global strategic balance and stability. Over the past six decades, the no-first-use policy has been increasingly becoming an important consensus and priority in the field of international arms control. This year, China submitted a working paper on mutual no-first-use of nuclear weapons at the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 11th NPT Review Conference.

 $\underline{https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202410/t20241016_11508459.html}$

U.K. Foreign Secretary visits China in bid to reset relations

Stephen Castle

The New York Times, October 17, 2024

Britain's foreign secretary, David Lammy, is scheduled to arrive in Beijing on a two-day visit aimed at resetting and smoothing ties with China while acknowledging differences between the

two countries over issues including human rights and the war in Ukraine. Mr. Lammy is set to meet with the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi, on Friday before traveling to Shanghai for meetings with British business leaders who have operations there. Ahead of the visit, the British government said the foreign secretary would urge China to curtail its political and economic support of Russia's war effort in Ukraine.

https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/17/world/europe/david-lammy-uk-china-visit.html

China's ballistic missile launch site discovered by researchers

Newsweek, October 17, 2024

Researchers claimed that they have geolocated the launch site of a rare, publicized test of a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in China. On September 25, the Chinese military launched a DF-31AG ICBM carrying a dummy warhead to the high seas in the Pacific Ocean. The missile has a reported range of 6,959 miles, capable of striking most of the continental United States with a nuclear warhead. China did not disclose the precise location of the launch site and the warhead's splash zone. Civil aviation notifications suggested that the missile was fired from the southern island of Hainan in China, while the warhead landed north of Tahiti in French Polynesia.

https://www.newsweek.com/china-news-ballistic-missile-launch-site-discovered-researchers-nuclear-weapons-1970400

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, October 17, 2024

Premier Li Qiang elaborated on the significance of building a common home of solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighborliness and friendship, and fairness and justice proposed by President Xi Jinping, and called on all parties to carry forward the Shanghai Spirit, enhance solidarity and coordination, and jointly implement the consensus reached at the Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State. Leaders of participating countries spoke highly of China's important contributions to SCO development and regional peace and stability.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202410/t20241017 11509439.html

China's coast guard joins military drills, raising risk of escalation

Katrina Northrop and Vic Chiang

The Washington Post, October 17, 2024

China's coast guard, the world's largest maritime law enforcement agency, played an unprecedented role in this week's military drills around Taiwan, participating in a simulated blockade of the island and raising the chance of escalation as Beijing muddies the waters with "gray zone" tactics. The drills, which came just days after Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te rebuked Beijing's claims of sovereignty over Taiwan, included a record-breaking 153 jets buzzing around the island, according to the Defense Ministry in Taipei. Also for the first time, China's coast guard fully encircled Taiwan, with the ministry counting 17 of the service's ships around Taiwan and its outlying islands during the same period.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/10/17/taiwan-chinese-military-drills-coastguard/

Chinese Foreign Ministry on sanctions targeting Chinese companies linked to the production of drones that Russia has deployed in the Ukraine war

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, October 18, 2024

China firmly opposes the US imposing illegal unilateral sanctions against Chinese companies and does not accept groundless accusation and pressure from the US. China is not a creator of or a party to the Ukraine crisis. We are always committed to promoting talks for peace and playing a constructive role for the political settlement. China has never provided lethal weapons to any party of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. China exercises strict export control over dual-use articles, including drones, and opposes using civilian drones for military purposes. We urge the US to immediately stop using the Ukraine issue to smear or put pressure on China or impose illegal unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction on Chinese entities and individuals. China will take all measures necessary to firmly defend the legitimate and lawful rights and interests of Chinese companies and nationals.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202410/t20241018 11510160.html

Chinese drone giant DJI sues Pentagon over military listing

Nikkei Asia, October 19, 2024

China-based DJI sued the U.S. Defense Department for adding the drone maker to a list of companies allegedly working with Beijing's military, saying the designation is wrong and has caused the company significant financial harm. DJI, the world's largest drone manufacturer that sells more than half of all U.S. commercial drones, asked a U.S. district judge in Washington to

order its removal from the Pentagon list designating it as a "Chinese military company," saying it "is neither owned nor controlled by the Chinese military."

https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/US-China-tensions/Chinese-drone-giant-DJI-sues-Pentagon-over-military-listing

China's Chang'e-6 lunar samples make global debut at IAC in Italy

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, October 19 2024

China's Chang'e-6 lunar samples retrieved from the far side of the moon made their global debut at the 75th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) held in Milan, Italy from October 14 to 18. The display of such precious lunar samples not only highlights China's advancements in space technology but also provides new research prospects for global space scientists, China National Space Administration (CNSA) said. Themed "Responsible Space for Sustainability," this year's IAC in Italy brought together leaders of space agencies, international organizations, researchers, entrepreneurs and astronauts representing more than 100 countries and regions. The IAC showcased the latest space technologies and achievements, delving into topics such as sustainable exploration of the moon and Mars, space observation of Earth's climate change, the role of private enterprises in space, and the applications of artificial intelligence, the CNSA said in a statement it provided to the Global Times.

https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202410/1321483.shtml

Chinese researchers develop "lunar bricks" for future lunar base construction

Xinhua, October 20, 2024

Chinese researchers have developed bricks from a material that has a similar composition to lunar soil, with the hope that they can be used to build a lunar base in the future. According to a recent video clip provided to Xinhua by the Huazhong University of Science and Technology, a team of researchers led by Ding Lieyun used a lunar soil simulant to make "lunar bricks" that are more than three times stronger than standard red bricks or concrete bricks. The team also developed another construction option using additive manufacturing technology. The researchers invented a 3D-printing robot to print houses using lunar soil. According to China Central Television, the lunar bricks will be sent to China's space station aboard the Tianzhou-8 cargo spacecraft to verify their mechanical and thermal performance, as well as their ability to withstand cosmic radiation. The first lunar brick is expected to return to Earth by the end of 2025.

https://english.news.cn/20241020/3819f1f71984442da7a5c22687d260b8/c.html#:~:text=According%20to%20China%20Central%20Television,by%20the%20end%20of%202025.

