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CHINA

President Xi Jinping Signs Order on Military Operations Other than War

On 14 June, the [People's Daily](#) reported that President Xi recently signed an order promulgating a set of trial outlines on military operations other than war (MOOTW). The signed order took effect on 15 June -and the set of trial outlines comprise 59 articles distributed over six chapters. Reportedly, the outlines intend to standardise and provide a legal basis for Chinese troops to execute humanitarian and disaster relief missions, peace-keeping and escort missions and anti-piracy operations both within the country and overseas. Further, it is also likely to contribute to a homogenous understanding of MOOTW across all People's Liberation Army (PLA) units. In this context, the [People's Liberation Army Daily](#) commented that the outline "summarizes the practical experience of carrying out tasks in the past, and extensively draws on the relevant theoretical achievements of the military and civilians." Furthermore, according to [Xinhua](#) the outlines also "aim to protect people's lives and property, safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interest, and safeguard world peace and regional stability."

China accelerates military modernisation

China inaugurated a new-generation aircraft carrier Type 003 on 17 June. The aircraft carrier named *Fujian* is the first such ship to have been both designed and built in China and is expected to increase the range and power of the Chinese navy. As [claimed](#) in Western media reports, the

aircraft carrier is equipped with the latest weaponry and a catapult-launch technology that employs an electromagnetic system, originally developed by the United States (US) Navy. Following the launch of the aircraft carrier, *Global Times* reported that the ship will be [delivered](#) to PLA Navy in two to three years, that is, after the sea trial and outfitting works are complete. Further, there are speculations that *Fujian* could get an [improved version](#) of the J-15 fighter jet which is compatible with catapult launch, an electronic warfare variant of the J-15, a next-generation stealth fighter jet, reportedly to be named the J-35, a fixed-wing early warning aircraft dubbed the KJ-600, and armed reconnaissance drones. According to Chinese analysts, the addition of *Fujian* is a major filip for Beijing's ambition of building a blue water navy.

In a separate development, China [conducted](#) a land-based, mid-course anti-ballistic missile interception technical test, which the Chinese Ministry of National Defence announced in a press release on 20 June. The press statement also noted that the test was defensive in nature and was not aimed at another country. Reportedly, the latest test was the sixth publicly announced Chinese land-based ABM technical test and its successful completion was viewed as strengthening Chinese national defence against the threat of the US intercontinental and intermediate range ballistic missiles.

TAIWAN

Taiwan media expresses fear of being quarantined by China

In the wake of the ongoing Ukraine crisis and fragile cross-Strait relations, Taiwan's leading news portal, The Taiwan News

expressed concerns that China might create a [quarantine scenario](#) to target Taiwan. Incidentally, Robert D. Blackwill and Philip Zelikow envisaged this scenario in their 2021 [report](#) titled *The United States, China, and Taiwan: A Strategy to Prevent War*. The scholars had opined that instead of blockading Taiwan, China could control Taiwan's air and sea space to prevent arms, weapons and contraband from reaching Taiwan. Recently, the news agency, citing the report, contented that by putting Taiwan under a "quarantine", China will assert its sovereignty over Taiwan and prevent any military supplies, particularly from the US, from reaching it. It will however, allow Taiwan to remain self-governed for the time being. Such a move would be in line with China's One-China policy that almost every country in the international community endorses. As Taiwan is considered to be China's breakaway province, quarantine will supposedly have no illegality and will be politically correct. Thus, it will be a challenge for Taiwan, the US and Japan to counter Chinese actions internationally. They may, too, declare a counter quarantine to support Taiwan, but it could be a half-hearted attempt and will certainly prove to be escalatory.

JAPAN

Japan's deepening engagement with NATO

Following the Ukraine conflict, Japan closely aligned its response with the G-7 countries and has called for deeper cooperation with the NATO. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida [attended](#) the NATO Summit in Madrid from 20-30 June and affirmed that the security of Europe and

the Indo-Pacific regions are inseparable. He reiterated his concerns about China's aggressive intentions in East Asia and called for greater unity to deter unilateral attempts of changing the status quo by force. In his Address, he also emphasised the development of cyber and maritime security cooperation between Japan and NATO countries. Earlier, Admiral Rob Bauer, Chairman of NATO's Military Committee visited Japan from 5-9 June and [contended](#) that 'Japan is NATO's longest-standing partner from outside the Euro-Atlantic area. We share the same values and challenges, which makes us natural partners.'

On the sidelines of the NATO summit, Kishida held a [trilateral meeting](#) with US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol to discuss key regional security concerns, especially the threats posed by Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes.

China-Japan Consultations on Maritime Affairs

On 23 June, China and Japan held [virtual talks](#) on maritime affairs. The primary focus was the discussion on suspected gas field explorations by Beijing in a contested area of the East China Sea. This was the first virtual meeting at the director-general level since November 2021. Separately, in early June, Japan [confirmed](#) that Chinese ships were spotted releasing observation equipment into the sea in Japan's exclusive economic zone near the southern prefecture of Okinawa. Japan's Foreign Ministry had confirmed on 20 May the ongoing construction of a facility by China believed to be meant for unilateral gas field

development in the East China Sea. Although in 2008 Japan and China had agreed on joint gas development in the area, negotiations were suspended in 2010 when tensions increased following a Chinese trawler's collision with a Japanese Coast Guard vessel.

In a separate development, Japanese Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi [met](#) his Chinese counterpart on the side lines of the Shangri-La Dialogue. During the meeting, Japan conveyed 'grave concern' over China-Russia joint military activities around Japan. With regard to the situation in the East China Sea, Japan urged the Chinese to exercise 'self-restraint on the continued unilateral attempts to change the status quo by coercion'. Importantly, Kishi argued that Japan's 'basic position on Taiwan remains unchanged'. In addition, militarisation of the South China Sea was also on the agenda.

THE KOREAN PENINSULA

South Korea, US stage Combined Patrol Flight to demonstrate Air Defence Readiness

In a demonstration of their readiness against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, South Korea and the US [conducted](#) a combined patrol flight over key battle sites of the 1950-53 Korean War, on 23 June. The combined patrol involved four South Korean F-15K fighters and four US F-16 jets and reportedly covered former battle sites like the city of Daegu, Pohang, Busan, as well as the southern island of Geoje. Flight operations were also conducted over a battle site in Pyeongtaek, where Samsung Electronics' key

semiconductor factory is located. Last month, the US President, Joe Biden [visited](#) the factory during his three-day trip to South Korea. Further, in a first, members of the defence press corps were invited to cover the event, seated in the back seats of South Korea's F-15K jets.

[Reporting](#) on the joint patrol, South Korean news media noted that the combined patrol flight was conducted in the backdrop of growing concerns about the possibility of Pyongyang carrying out its seventh nuclear test.

North Korea accuses the US of attempting to establish 'Asian NATO'

Following the [joint military exercise](#) by South Korea, the US and Japan, Pyongyang in a foreign ministry statement, accused the US of "making a full-fledged move to establish an Asia-style NATO". It reiterated that such drills are preparations for a war aimed at overthrowing North Korea's government. Although the statement did not directly mention the nuclear tests or the missile programme, it claimed that US hostility had compelled Pyongyang to develop its defences.

Earlier this month, on 5 June, North Korea, reportedly in response to South Korea and the US' joint naval drills in the Philippines Sea, test-fired eight short-range ballistic missiles towards the Sea of Japan. The launch was confirmed to be the 18th round of missile tests by North Korea.