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CHINA

Transportation Training in TMR

According to a People's Liberation's Army (PLA) Daily report published on 14 June, a field [material transportation training](#) simulating actual combat was conducted by a brigade of the Tibet Military Region (TMR) in early June. During the exercise, the Commander and his brigade was tasked to respond and overcome a sudden special situation. The transport company's personnel (military unit) had to navigate situations like adversaries' satellites passing overhead and encountering zones with environmental hazard in rapid succession. Reportedly, the officers and soldiers at each combat position flexibly adopted concealment and protection measures to handle the special situation. The report also informed about further plans for [more specialised trainings](#) that will involve methods such as multi-subject coherent assessment and comprehensive handling of multiple special situations with intensely challenging scenarios.

China-Saudi Military Cooperation

On 26 June the Vice Chairman of Central Military Commission (CMC) Zhang Youxia and China's Defence Minister Dong Jun met Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman in Beijing to [fast-track relations between two militaries](#). Reportedly, Zhang informed Salman that China values its ties with Saudi Arabia and is open to army exchanges, personal training, joint exercises and drills with Saudi military. According to Chinese Defence Ministry's press briefing Saudi Defence Minister assured Beijing that Riyadh too is willing to strengthen strategic communication and elevate bilateral military ties to a higher level.

JAPAN

US-Japan-ROK Coast Guard Joint Exercise

On 6 June, the coast guards of the United States of America (USA), Japan and the Republic of Korea [conducted](#) their first joint exercise in waters off Kyoto Prefecture in the Sea of Japan. The exercises followed on from agreements that were signed by the leaders of the three countries at the Camp David Summit in August 2023 as well as a new agreement signed between the coast guards of the three countries in May to collaborate on issues dealing with the maritime domain. The current exercises [involved](#) one ship each from the three coast guards – the Japan Coast Guard's patrol vessel *Wakasa* (PL93), the Republic of Korea Coast Guard's patrol vessel *Taepyongyang* (KCG3016) and the US Coast Guard's cutter *Waesche* (WMSL751) – along with two rescue helicopters. The drill involved a search and rescue scenario which posited the collision of two boats on the high seas, causing a simulated fire on a South Korean fishing vessel. Observers from each of the coast guards joined the crew of the others in order to observe each other's standard operating procedures.

JIMEX-24 held between Indian, Japanese navies

On 11 June 2024, the Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth frigate INS *Shivalik* [participated](#) in the annual bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) at Yokosuka, Japan. The exercise involved both harbour and sea phases, with the harbour phase including professional and social interactions. The sea phase saw the *Shivalik* joining the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Forces' (JMSDF) guided missile destroyer JS *Yugiri* and their respective complements of helicopters to 'jointly hone their war fighting skills at sea and enhance

their interoperability through complex multi-discipline operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains'. The ship was welcomed to Yokosuka by the Commander of the JMSDF's Yokosuka Naval District, Vice-Admiral Hiroshi Ito.

TAIWAN

Taiwan Bolsters Defense

On 25 June, Taiwan's Armament Bureau unveiled a significant upgrade to its armoured fighting vehicle fleet. The D2 infantry fighting vehicle prototype boasts a 105mm assault gun and [hunter-killer capabilities](#), similar to the US Abrams tank. This new vehicle is based on the existing [eight-wheeled Clouded Leopard platform](#).

Meanwhile, Taiwan's naval power is also set to receive a boost. Two *Tuo Chiang*-class corvettes, the [An Chiang and Wan Chiang](#), are reported to be ready for deployment in early July. These vessels are armed with advanced *Hsiung Feng II* and III anti-ship missiles, bringing the total number of operational *Tuo Chiang* corvettes to seven.

In a separate development, Taiwan has reportedly purchased 968 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in 2024 alone. These include [attack drones, micro drones, and surveillance drones](#). Their goal is to reach a total of 3,231 commercial-grade military UAVs by 2027. Additionally, negotiations are underway with the US for [a potential arms](#) deal worth US\$360.2 million. This deal could see Taiwan acquire [Switchblade 300 anti-personnel drones and ALTIUS 600M-V anti-armor UAVs](#), with a total of 720 Switchblades and 291 ALTIUS units requested.

Finally, Taiwan is addressing maintenance challenges for its existing AH-1W SuperCobra attack helicopters. These US-purchased helicopters require a long-term maintenance solution as the US Marine

Corps retired them in 2020. To address this, Taiwan issued an eight-year maintenance contract valued at [NT\\$1.26 billion](#) on 19 June. Furthermore, the Taiwanese army is planning to [acquire new barrels](#) for its aging M60A3 tanks, while awaiting the delivery of the first [38 M1 Abrams tanks](#) from the US. These efforts highlight Taiwan's focus on modernizing its military equipment and strengthening its defensive capabilities.

KOREAN PENINSULA

Military exercises by South Korea

The South Korean government informed on 4 June that it will no longer be bound by the [2018 inter-Korean military agreement](#) with Pyongyang and undertook military drills along its western maritime borders. These drills followed the North Korea's sending of trash-filled balloons to South Korea and jamming of GPS signals along the inter-Korean maritime border. These military drills [employed](#) K-9 howitzers and *Chunmoo* multiple rocket launchers. Also, the American nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt [arrived](#) in South Korea to participate in the US-South Korea-Japan trilateral military exercise. In a separate development South Korea along with the United States (US) and Japan conducted a three-day [multi-domain military exercises](#) named "Freedom Edge" in the international waters near Jeju Island which included sea, underwater, air and cyberspace drills.

North Korea's failed missile test

North Korea tested a missile which supposedly ended in a failure. According to South Korea, the failed rocket was possibly a [hypersonic missile](#). However, North Korea claimed this test a success. According to the [North Korean media](#), the missile test conducted on June 26 was a successful test of "separation and guidance control test of individual mobile warheads."