

January 10, 2025

# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

**Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues**

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



## **‘Ginkgo leaf’ sparks discussions on alleged sixth-gen fighter jets as PLA Eastern Theater Command publishes music video, releasing multiple signals**

Guo Yuandan, Liu Xuanzun and Chen Shan

Global Times, January 1, 2025

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theater Command released a music video titled "Zhong Guo Ren (Chinese People in English)" on its official WeChat account in celebration of the New Year, showing the determination, will and ability of officers and soldiers in the theater to stay vigilant, remain ready to fight at any time and resolutely safeguard the reunification of the motherland. It highlighted images of new equipment such as the “ginkgo leaf” and the Type 076 amphibious assault ship, which shows that the PLA can resolutely fight back and thwart any attempt for “Taiwan independence,” and will never allow any forces to split the island of Taiwan from China's sovereign territory.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1326118.shtml>

## **China’s Xi addresses economic challenges, threatens Taiwan in New Year speech**

Katrina Northrop

The Washington Post, January 1, 2025

Chinese leader Xi Jinping used his New Year’s address evening to project confidence about the country’s economic outlook and repeat threats about taking over Taiwan, as Beijing grapples with an ailing economy and the looming inauguration of a U.S. president set to take a hard line on China. In the televised address, Xi acknowledged that China’s economy was facing “challenges from uncertainties in the external environment” — but he struck a defiant note, proclaiming that the country would prevail through hard work. “We have always grown by weathering the storms and become stronger by overcoming challenges,” he said.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/01/01/xi-speech-china-economy-trump-taiwan/>

## **Country imposes export controls on 28 US entities**

Zhong Nan

China Daily, January 2, 2025

China has added 28 entities from the United States, including Boeing Defence, Space & Security and Lockheed Martin Corp, to its export control list, the Ministry of Commerce announced. Taking effect immediately, this move aims to safeguard national security and interests while fulfilling nonproliferation and other international obligations, the ministry said in an online notice. Under

the new rule, Chinese companies are prohibited from exporting dual-use items to these 28 US entities. Any ongoing related export activities should be immediately halted, said the notice.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202501/02/WS6776ad94a310f1265a1d8ac9.html>

## **U.S. weighs ban on Chinese Drones, citing national security concerns**

Ana Swanson

The New York Times, January 2, 2025

The Biden administration said that it was considering a new rule that could restrict or ban Chinese drones in the United States out of national security concerns. In a notice, the Commerce Department said the involvement of foreign adversaries — notably China and Russia — in the design, development, manufacture and supply of drones could pose “undue or unacceptable risk to U.S. national security.” The notice requested private companies to comment on the scope and implications of the rule by March 4. The decision of what restrictions to impose, if any, on Chinese and Russian drones will fall to the Trump administration.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/02/us/politics/drone-ban-china-security.html>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on disaster relief provided to the Pacific Island nation Vanuatu**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, January 2, 2025

After the earthquake, China immediately extended emergency humanitarian assistance to Vanuatu. To better support Vanuatu’s disaster relief work, a chartered plane sent by the Chinese government carrying emergency disaster relief supplies arrived in Vanuatu’s capital city Port Vila. China and Vanuatu are good friends, good partners and good brothers that support each other in overcoming difficulties. China will continue to do what we can to help with the relief and reconstruction effort in light of the damage and the need of Vanuatu. We believe the people of Vanuatu will overcome the difficulties and rebuild their homes soon.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250102\\_11526001.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250102_11526001.html)

## **First unit of China's Zhangzhou nuclear power project starts commercial operations**

Xinhua, January 2, 2025

The first power generation unit of the Zhangzhou nuclear power project in east China's Fujian Province began commercial operations, according to China National Nuclear Corporation. This

marked a major step forward in the scaled construction of Hualong One, a domestically developed third-generation reactor, as China seeks to improve its energy mix and meet its dual carbon targets. The Hualong One reactor meets the highest global safety standards and represents a major milestone in the country's innovative nuclear power development.

<https://english.news.cn/20250102/50d0cb8d6435487e93a41603a417267e/c.html>

## **China vows ‘all necessary’ measures to defend lawful rights after US announcement of mulling ban on Chinese drones**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, January 3, 2025

China firmly opposes the US overstressing the concept of national security, which disrupts and restricts normal economic and trade exchanges, and undermines the security and stability of the global industrial and supply chains. We will take all measures necessary to firmly safeguard our lawful rights and interests.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250103\\_11526929.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250103_11526929.html)

## **Antony Blinken: ‘China has been trying to have it both ways’**

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, January 3, 2025

Blinken has repeatedly lambasted China for allowing companies to send dual-use items with both civilian and military applications to Russia. The flow of trade has not fallen, so I ask why the administration has not taken actions with more teeth. “They’ve been trying to have it both ways,” says Blinken, a reference to China also claiming to want to help bring peace to Ukraine. He says “China is hearing a chorus of concern from many countries” who along with the US have imposed sanctions on Chinese entities aiding the Russian war effort.

<https://www.ft.com/content/25798b9f-1ad9-4f7f-ab9e-d6f36bbe3edf>

## **China conducts 5 rocket engine tests in Beijing, Hebei**

China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, January 3, 2025

China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) carried out a total of five rocket engine tests in Beijing and Laiyuan County, north China's Hebei Province, laying a solid foundation for the implementation of major aerospace projects later this year. In Beijing, Institute 101 of the Academy of Aerospace Propulsion Technology under the CASC conducted a test on four types of engines, including a new hydrogen-oxygen engine.

<https://english.spacechina.com/n17212/c4249378/content.html>

## **US Treasury sanctions technology company for support to malicious cyber group**

US Department of Treasury, January 3, 2025

The Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned Integrity Technology Group, Incorporated (Integrity Tech), a Beijing-based cybersecurity company, for its role in multiple computer intrusion incidents against U.S. victims. These incidents have been publicly attributed to Flax Typhoon, a Chinese malicious state-sponsored cyber group that has been active since at least 2021, often targeting organizations within U.S. critical infrastructure sectors.

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2769>

## **Military challenges to Beijing's South China Sea claims are increasing**

Joe Keary

Australian Strategic Policy Institute, January 3, 2025

Deployments of ships and aircraft to challenge China's illegal claims in the South China Sea are increasing. European ships are appearing more often, while Asia-Pacific countries are increasingly conducting activities in areas that China regards as sensitive. Several nations have claims in the South China Sea, but China's claim is the most extensive and controversial. Beijing seeks to enforce sovereign rights and jurisdiction over all features within the nine-dash line, including the islands, rocks and atolls that make up the Paracel and Spratly Islands.

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/editors-picks-for-2024-military-challenges-to-beijings-south-china-sea-claims-are-increasing/>

## **China plans tech export rule changes**

Zhong Nan

China Daily, January 4, 2024

China's proposal to adjust its catalogue of technologies subject to export bans or restrictions aligns with international practices and will enhance its management of technology trade, industry scholars said. The Ministry of Commerce issued a notice soliciting public feedback on the adjustment of a catalogue of technologies that are subject to export bans or restrictions. Apart from proposing to tighten export restrictions on battery cathode material preparative technology, China plans to enhance export curbs on specific technologies and processes used for extracting metallic gallium and lithium, which are essential for the semiconductor, electric vehicle and consumer electronics industries.

<https://www.chinadailyhk.com/hk/article/601549>

## **How Huawei brought on a Sputnik moment in world trade**

Eva Dou

The Washington Post, January 4, 2025

In May 2019, Donald Trump invoked a presidential power generally reserved for wars, terrorist attacks and pandemics: He declared Huawei, China's flagship telecommunications equipment maker, a national emergency. The company, which, like all large Chinese corporations, operates under the close watch of the ruling Communist Party, had drawn concern in the United States that its internet networking gear and popular cellphones could help the Chinese government gain opportunities to listen in on conversations around the globe.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2025/01/04/huawei-export-controls-us-china-trade-chips-telecommunications/>

## **Biden administration officials intensively visit 'Indo-Pacific' region; US wants to ensure allies continuously serve its strategic interests, says expert**

Global Times, January 5, 2025

Officials from the Biden administration, including Jake Sullivan and Antony Blinken, are intensively visiting the so-called Indo-Pacific region in the final days of Biden's term. A Chinese expert said that these visits indicate that the US is concerned about whether its allies can continuously and relentlessly serve its strategic interests in the context of great power competition, and the visits could limit Trump administration's flexibility in managing foreign policy.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1326316.shtml>

## **Xi has a plan for retaliating against Trump's gamesmanship**

Evan Medeiros

Financial Times, January 5, 2025

If Donald Trump's China policy is defined by uncertainty and contradiction, Xi Jinping's strategy is defined by clarity and determination. The Chinese president's approach to the US president-elect is not a secret. Beijing has been quite clear since the election about its views and possible responses. Xi plans not only to respond, but to take advantage of Trump's moves. During Trump's first term, Beijing scrambled to react. It is determined not to repeat that. Xi is well into his preparations and has signalled as much.

<https://www.ft.com/content/ca79e423-7c0f-4883-a295-6fe1c73a2819>

## **Is China's mystery 6th-gen stealth fighter poised to be a command centre for combat drones?**

Enoch Wong

South China Morning Post, January 5, 2024

China's mystery sixth-generation stealth combat aircraft spotted last month might have sacrificed flexibility and carrier mission opportunities for other roles, according to military experts. One such role could be serving as a command centre to direct combat drones, the observers said. Footage of two similar models of a new tailless fighter jet have been circulating on Chinese social media since they were first posted on December 26, the 131st anniversary of the birth of Mao Zedong, the founding father of the People's Republic of China.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3293421/chinas-mystery-6th-gen-stealth-fighter-poised-be-command-centre-combat-drones>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on India's concerns about China's development of its huge hydro dam in Yarlung Zangbo in Tibet**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 6, 2025

On the hydropower project in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, China has made its position clear. Let me reiterate that the decision to build the project was made after rigorous scientific evaluation and the project will not have a negative impact on the ecological environment, geological conditions and the rights and interests related to water resources of downstream countries. Rather, it will, to some extent, help with their disaster prevention and reduction and climate response.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250106\\_11527766.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250106_11527766.html)

## **China 2035: Three Scenarios for China's Nuclear Program**

Andrew Harding, Madelyn Heaston and Robert Peters

The Heritage Foundation, January 6, 2025

China desires a security environment in which its world-class military is unrivaled and its nuclear arsenal is at a minimum on par—and very possibly, superior to—that of the United States. Indeed, if the United States does not build the deterrent it needs, it risks falling behind Russia and China as nuclear powers. As such, the United States should meet and defend against such a scenario. By rebuilding American nuclear forces to a level capable of deterring an even more powerful China, the United States can maintain a secure nuclear environment that keeps America and its allies safe—regardless of the future China seeks to pursue.

<https://www.heritage.org/china/report/china-2035-three-scenarios-chinas-nuclear-program>

## **PLA Army carries out drills to test operational capacity in high-altitude and cold environment conditions**

Global Times, January 6, 2025

The Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Army has carried out joint drills to evaluate annual combat readiness in high-altitude and cold environment conditions in the Karakoram Mountains at the start of the new year, featuring drones, tanks and infantry fighting vehicles. According to a China Central Television (CCTV) report, a unit of the Xinjiang Military Command has been conducting reconnaissance tactical drills in an unfamiliar high-altitude area. Multiple forces of reconnaissance, armored and firepower units participated with a range of equipment to test their operational capacity.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1326365.shtml>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on BRICS expansion**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 7, 2025

China warmly welcomes the new addition to the BRICS family. The BRICS cooperation mechanism came into being amidst the collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries. It is also what the world would like to see in the interest of peace, the world's common development and better global governance. China stands ready to work with all BRICS members to embrace the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, advance the high quality development of greater BRICS cooperation, jointly advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for all. The future holds tremendous promise for greater BRICS cooperation.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250107\\_11528563.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250107_11528563.html)

## **Pentagon to blacklist China's largest EV battery and tech firms**

Ellen Nakashima and Cate Cadell

The Washington Post, January 7, 2025

The Pentagon will blacklist China's largest EV battery manufacturer and its largest tech firm beginning in June 2026, barring them from Defence Department contracts and sending a powerful signal to American firms about the potential risks of doing business with them. In a notice in the Federal Register on Monday, the Defence Department published a list of firms it deems to be operating in the United States for, or on behalf of, the Chinese military or that contribute to China's military buildup.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/01/06/pentagon-blacklist-china-technology-ev/>



## **Taiwan investigating Chinese vessel over damage to undersea cable**

Helen Davidson

The Guardian, January 7, 2025

Taiwanese authorities are investigating a Chinese-owned vessel that is suspected of damaging an undersea internet cable, causing limited disruption. The Cameroon-registered vessel Shunxing 39 was briefly detained by Taiwan's coastguard on suspicion of dragging its anchor over an international subsea cable north-east of the island. The cable runs to the US and is co-owned by several international companies. Taiwan's Chunghwa Telecom said services in Taiwan were mostly uninterrupted and that it had been able to quickly reroute data to other cables.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/07/taiwan-investigating-chinese-vessel-over-damage-to-undersea-cable>

## **Why do China's sixth-gen stealth fighters have different designs?**

Amber Wangin and Sylvie Zhuang

South China Morning Post, January 7, 2025

The smaller – and more manoeuvrable – of China's two recently revealed sixth-generation stealth aircraft is likely to form the country's future cohort of carrier-based warplanes, according to Chinese analysts. The smaller fighter jet was spotted during its maiden test flight over the northeastern city of Shenyang late last month. On the same day, a larger, three-engine aircraft with a tailless diamond-wing design was seen over Chengdu.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3293762/why-do-chinas-sixth-gen-stealth-fighters-have-different-designs>

## **China's Metal Storm poised to shred hypersonics**

Gabriel Honrada

Asia Times, January 7, 2025

China has unveiled a hyper-fast machine gun that could revolutionize defence against hypersonic missiles, posing a bold challenge to conventional missile defence systems. This month, South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported that Chinese scientists are developing a groundbreaking machine gun, dubbed the "Metal Storm," capable of firing bullets at an unprecedented rate of 450,000 rounds per minute per barrel. SCMP notes that the weapon, which could become the most powerful machine gun in history, features five or more barrels and is designed to intercept hypersonic missiles traveling at speeds exceeding Mach 7.

<https://asiatimes.com/2025/01/chinas-metal-storm-poised-to-shred-hypersonics/>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on Tibet earthquake**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 8, 2025

In the wake of the earthquake, General Secretary Xi Jinping instructed that every effort be made to search for and rescue survivors and treat the injured, minimize fatalities, prevent secondary disasters, look after those who are affected, and make proper arrangements as necessary. He also instructed that steps be taken to enhance quake monitoring and early warning, swiftly allocate rescue and relief supplies, repair damaged infrastructure without delay, make sure people's basic needs are taken care of and make sure they stay safe and warm for the rest of the winter. Premier Li Qiang also gave instructions on all-out disaster response and relief effort and minimizing fatalities. Yesterday, Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing led a group made up of officials from competent authorities to the quake-hit region to guide the rescue, relief and related work.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250108\\_11529206.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250108_11529206.html)

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the alleged Chinese hacker groups carrying cyberattacks against Japanese firms**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 9, 2025

China firmly opposes and fights all forms of hacker attacks in accordance with law, and opposes politicizing cybersecurity issues. This position is consistent and clear. As many can see, the virtuality of cyberspace makes it difficult to trace the source of actions, and the actors in cyberspace are diverse. It is neither professional nor responsible for relevant Japanese institutions to make judgments based solely on the targets and methods of the hacking attacks. We have noticed that some allies of the US have recently started to assist the US in spreading disinformation about China.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250109\\_11529980.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250109_11529980.html)

## **China military improves air supply for troops at Himalayan border with India**

Enoch Wong

South China Morning Post, January 9, 2025

Chinese troops stationed in the harsh conditions of the Tibetan plateau now have access to better supplies of oxygen as part of efforts to strengthen equipment, training and logistics along the disputed western border with India, the military said. PLA Daily, the People's Liberation Army mouthpiece, said that the military has established a 20km (12.4 miles) supply zone to improve operational efficiency at its high-altitude border outposts. Liu Hao, commander of a border regiment stationed 5,380 metres (17,700 feet) above sea level in the Hotan military subdistrict,

told the newspaper that faster and more reliable oxygen access is critical for soldiers' health and combat readiness.

[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3293846/china-military-improves-air-supply-troops-himalayan-border-india?module=top\\_story&pgtype=subsection](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3293846/china-military-improves-air-supply-troops-himalayan-border-india?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection)

## **National data infra design underway**

Fan Feife

China Daily, January 9, 2025

China's latest efforts to construct a national data infrastructure are expected to fully unleash the value of massive data elements, bolster the development and utilization of data and facilitate the high-quality growth of the country's digital economy, said officials and experts. China's investment in data infrastructure will attract about 400 billion yuan (\$54.6 billion) in annual direct investment, with the total scale reaching about 2 trillion yuan over the next five years, said the country's top data governance regulator.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202501/09/WS677f21d6a310f1265a1d9c94.html>

## **Beijing doctors accomplish world's first ultra-long-distance surgery on a patient in Tibet with help of communication satellite**

China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, January 10, 2025

Chinese doctors based in Beijing recently performed the world's first ultra-long-distance surgery on a liver cancer patient thousands of kilometers away in Lhasa, with the help of China's communication satellite. The APSTAR-6D communication satellite used in the surgery is operated by APT Mobile Satcom Limited (APSAT) and developed by the China Academy of Spacecraft Technology (CAST) under the state-owned space giant China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC). The satellite was launched into orbit in July 2020. It is the first in China's Ku-band global high-throughput broadband satellite communication network, according to the CASC in a press release

<https://english.spacechina.com/n17212/c4252624/content.html>

## **Chinese Foreign Ministry on human metapneumovirus (HMPV) in China**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 10, 2025

Respiratory infections tend to peak during the winter season in the Northern Hemisphere and influenza viruses are common pathogens. The overall scale and intensity of respiratory infectious

diseases in China are lower than last year. Regarding the human metapneumovirus (HMPV), it is not a new virus. The Chinese government takes seriously the health of its own people and foreign nationals in China. China's competent authorities and technical agencies took proactive steps to carry out sentinel surveillance for various acute respiratory infectious diseases and released surveillance results.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250110\\_11530970.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250110_11530970.html)

## **Xi Jinping to send top-level China envoy to Donald Trump's inauguration**

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, January 10, 2025

China's President Xi Jinping will send a high-level envoy to Donald Trump's inauguration, in an unprecedented move designed to reduce friction between the countries at the start of the new US administration. Beijing told Trump's transition team that the top official would attend instead of Xi, according to several people familiar with the talks. The envoy would also hold talks with Trump's team, several people said. Trump extended an unusual invitation to Xi to attend his inauguration on January 20 in a sign that he intended to resume the kind of high-level engagement with the Chinese leader that he conducted during his first term in the White House.

<https://www.ft.com/content/68ac33bd-2b5b-4c47-9b60-3c55cc96acda>

## **U.S. ambassador says China is aligned with 'agents of disorder'**

Keith Bradsher

The New York Times, January 10, 2025

The United States ambassador to China, R. Nicholas Burns, said the Biden administration is making a last push to try to persuade China to stop transferring equipment to Russia for the war in Ukraine. Mr. Burns, in an interview at the U.S. embassy in Beijing, asserted that nearly 400 Chinese companies have supplied Russia with so-called dual use products, those with both military and commercial applications. He also said China has supplied 90 percent of the microelectronics used in the Russian war effort.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/10/business/nicholas-burns-ambassador-china.html>

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

**Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA**