

July 31, 2024

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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



Tech self-reliance helps shield China from Windows outage

Global Times, July 21, 2024

Although Microsoft Windows' "blue screen of death" hit millions of users worldwide, including banks, airlines, hospitals and hotels, China was largely unaffected as the country's technology independence and self-sufficiency efforts have provided a protective shield. Chinese industrial players and experts said that the Windows outage caused by a third-party cloud software faulty update left millions computers inoperable triggering chaos across many economic sectors, and the incident has prompted global cybersecurity concerns, highlighting the importance of tech independence.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1316441.shtml>

Shenzhou-18 crew continues experiments after second spacewalk

CGTN, July 21, 2024

The Shenzhou-18 crew aboard China's orbiting space station has completed experimental sample replacement and emergency drills to simulate internal pressure loss after their second spacewalk earlier this month. The astronauts also replaced the experimental plugin filter in the space lab module's combustion cabinet. Other experiments, such as boiling heat transfer and enhancement mechanisms, are expected to be conducted. The astronauts Ye Guangfu, Li Cong and Li Guangsu received emotional recognition and assessment. The trio filled out questionnaires on topics such as "mood states" and "positive and negative emotional states" and conducted color preference tests and emotional image tests. The researchers on Earth will evaluate their emotional states based on the results.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-07-21/Shenzhou-18-crew-continues-experiments-after-second-spacewalk-1vq04emeuOY/p.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, July 22, 2024

The third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China is a highly important event. The session delved into the new circumstances and challenges facing Chinese modernization, formulated systemic plans for further deepening reform across the board, and provided an important window for the world on China's pursuit of high-quality development and high-standard opening up in the new era. One focus of the session is the expansion of China's high-standard opening up.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202407/t20240730_11463265.html

A primer on trends in China's Military Air, Space, and Missile Forces

Brendan S. Mulvaney

China Aerospace Studies Institute, July 22, 2024

As the People's Liberation Army (PLA) moves ever closer to its centennial anniversary, it shows no signs of slowing the pace of modernization. Under the direct guidance of Xi Jinping, Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the PLA has focused heavily on the most advanced and modern aspects of warfighting, with the express goal of catching up to the United States. Chairman Xi has explicitly directed the PLA to have the capability to invade Taiwan by 2027, the 100-year mark. Let us be clear: this is not a timeline or deadline for such an action. Instead, this is an aspirational readiness goal that Chairman Xi has set for the PLA, and they are working at it diligently.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Articles/Article-Display/Article/3840174/pla-aerospace-power-a-primer-on-trends-in-chinas-military-air-space-and-missile/>

China's dangerous nuclear push

Amy J. Nelson and Andrew Yeo

Foreign Affairs, July 22, 2024

Since the 1990s, Beijing has spurned Washington's invitations to participate in nuclear arms control negotiations. Instead, it has expanded and modernized its arsenal: the country's estimated 500 nuclear warheads are on track to double by 2030. China's advances, along with North Korea's, has had knock-on effects in the region. Despite U.S. security assurances, a majority of South Koreans now want their country to have its own nuclear weapons, and Japan's long-standing aversion to the bomb is also eroding. Asia is now on track to see a destabilizing arms race in the years ahead.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/chinas-dangerous-nuclear-push>

China's Xi Jinping bets on high tech for 'great rejuvenation'

Joe Leahy and Cheng Leng

Financial Times, July 23, 2024

The third plenum final document mentioned terms related to technology, talent, science and innovation 160 times. But the property sector warranted only four mentions, and did not appear until two-thirds of the way through the document. "Topics like supply chain self-sufficiency, tech innovation — they probably take up most of the 22,000 words of the document," said Robin Xing,

chief China economist at Morgan Stanley. “That’s the top priority.” But Beijing’s overarching goal remained “the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation”, which the document said would be achieved by promoting “scientific and technological self-reliance” amid a “complex” international situation, code for geopolitical tensions with the US, analysts said.

<https://www.ft.com/content/2e78ddde-0b32-40ca-8dc4-6bee73a1109e>

US hypes ‘threats from China, Russia’ in Arctic strategy, to push for militarization in the region: expert

Xu Keyue

Global Times, July 23, 2024

A new Pentagon strategy released is advocating for increased US investment to upgrade sensors, communications and space-based technologies in the Arctic to "keep up with China and Russia." However, Chinese experts have dismissed the push for militarization in the Arctic, viewing it as a tactic to hype "threats" from China and Russia during the election campaign. Saying that now is "a critical time" for the Arctic, US Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks told reporters that "climate change, increased activity by adversaries and degrading US infrastructure" are forcing the department to rethink how to keep the Arctic secure and ensure troops are well-equipped and protected, AP reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1316573.shtml>

China brokers Palestinian unity declaration in bid to be global mediator

Christian Shepherd, Steve Hendrix, Niha Masih and Sarah Dadouch

The Washington Post, July 23, 2024

Leaders of Palestinian factions, including Fatah and Hamas, signed a joint statement in Beijing aimed at ending divisions between the bitter rivals, a deal bolstering China’s claim to being a global mediator but unlikely to heal the deep rift between the Palestinian political groups. Chinese media hailed the “Beijing declaration” as a breakthrough and a sign of the country’s emerging role as a peace broker in faraway conflicts. In a speech after the talks ended, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called it a “historic moment for the cause of Palestine’s liberation” and highlighted the “consensus around establishing an interim national reconciliation government to manage Gaza after the war.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/07/23/china-hamas-fatah-palestine-beijing-declaration/>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on internal reconciliation between Palestinian factions

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, July 23, 2024

At China's invitation, senior representatives of 14 Palestinian factions held reconciliation talks in Beijing from July 21 to 23. This morning, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended and addressed the closing session of the talks. The Palestinian factions signed the Beijing declaration on ending division and strengthening Palestinian national unity. This is the first time that all 14 Palestinian factions gathered in Beijing and held talks for reconciliation. It brings precious hope for the Palestinian people who have suffered for too long. The declaration commends China's sincere effort to support the rights of the Palestinians, end division and bring about a unified position among the Palestinian factions.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202407/t20240730_11463266.html

Why does China care about a rust bucket in the middle of the sea?

Michelle Ye Hee Lee and Pei-Lin Wu

The Washington Post, July 23, 2024

A dilapidated World War II-era vessel, the Sierra Madre, run aground on a tiny reef in the South China Sea has emerged as a potential flash point that could trigger a regional war, with the Chinese coast guard repeatedly swarming and ramming into Philippine vessels to stop them from resupplying the ship. Beijing and Manila have now forged a provisional agreement that would allow the Philippines to take supplies out to the ship, hoping that it will end the recent escalation in tensions in the contested waters of the South China Sea.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/07/23/china-philippines-south-china-sea-sierra-madre/>

China's new-gen manned launch vehicle completes first high-altitude simulation test, paves way for crewed lunar exploration

People's Daily, July 24, 2024

China has achieved another significant milestone in its development of the new-generation manned carrier rocket, with the successful completion of a long-duration high-altitude simulation test for the vehicle's third-stage liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen engine. The test has verified the feasibility of the rocket engine working for long periods in space, laying a solid foundation for the smooth progress of the country's future lunar manned exploration program, industry insiders said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/0724/c90000-20197330.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Wang Yi's talks with the Ukrainian counterpart

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, July 24, 2024

Foreign Minister Wang Yi noted that China and Ukraine are friends to each other. Everything that stands out in bilateral exchanges is about friendship and cooperation. The two countries established a strategic partnership more than a decade ago, and have respected each other and treated each other as equals. Mutually beneficial cooperation has made steady headway. The presidents of our two countries stressed the importance to view and envision bilateral relations from a long-term perspective, and make sure that bilateral relations and cooperation will keep moving forward.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202407/t20240730_11463267.html

China urges US to abandon 'nuclear sharing,' cease deployment of missiles in Asia-Pacific

Global Times, July 24, 2024

China has urged the US to abandon the "nuclear sharing" and "extended deterrence" arrangements, withdraw nuclear weapons deployed overseas, abandon the development and deployment of a global missile defense system, and immediately cease the deployment of land-based intermediate-range missiles in the Asia-Pacific region at a UN Office for Disarmament Affairs session on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. China has always believed that the policy of nuclear-weapon states jointly adopting a no-first-use policy is an effective measure to reduce strategic risks, Sun Xiaobo, Director-General of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, addressed the session.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1316642.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the ethnic violence in Myanmar

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, July 25, 2024

China is closely following the situation in northern Myanmar. We have called on relevant parties in Myanmar to uphold dialogue and consultation, end the hostilities as soon as possible, settle disputes in a peaceful manner, avoid escalation of the situation, and in particular, make sure no harm is done to the security of Chinese borders and the safety of people living in the border area as well as Chinese projects, businesses and personnel in Myanmar. China will continue to promote talks for peace and encourage northern Myanmar to maintain the momentum of ceasefire and peace talks.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202407/t20240730_11463268.html

USAF should look at China's future multi-crew fighter model for F-15EX

Major Joshua "Soup" Campbell

The Warzone, July 25, 2024

Meanwhile, the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) advocates for multi-seat configurations to manage data-rich combat environments effectively. USAF plans, on the other hand, currently exclude utilizing the F-15EX's rear cockpit, limiting its role to air-to-air missions and possibly limited air-to-ground missions sometime in the future. In this era of transformative air combat, as the PLAAF pioneers new operational concepts with multi-seat fighters, the USAF stands at a crossroads, balancing legacy strategies with the imperative for adaptive, integrated command and control of unmanned systems and network-centric operations.

<https://www.twz.com/air/usaf-should-look-at-chinas-future-multi-crew-fighter-model-for-f-15ex>

US sanctions China-based network over links to North Korea space and missile programmes

Robert Delaney

South China Morning Post, July 25, 2024

The US announced a new wave of sanctions against Chinese entities for allegedly violating UN Security Council resolutions by supplying North Korea with inputs for ballistic missiles, the second such action in little more than a month. The sanctions target a network of a half-dozen people and five firms in China, accusing them of supporting Pyongyang's ballistic missile and space programmes. "In flagrant violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, [North Korea] has continued to conduct launches using ballistic missile technology, including a recent failed effort to place a military satellite into orbit," the US Treasury Department said in its statement.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/3271768/us-sanctions-china-based-network-over-links-north-korea-space-and-missile-programmes>

Chinese scientists discover highest-energy gamma-ray spectral line

Xinhua, July 26, 2024

Chinese scientists have identified a gamma-ray spectral line with energy levels peaking at 37 million electron volts, the highest-energy gamma-ray spectral line ever observed from cosmic celestial bodies. The discovery will significantly advance the understanding of gamma-ray bursts

(GRBs). The study, led by researchers from the Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP), Chinese Academy of Sciences, was published as a cover story in the journal Science China Physics, Mechanics & Astronomy.

[https://english.news.cn/20240726/5ef79dc88de84afeb586ef9d2d3a5717/c.html#:~:text=BEIJING%2C%20July%2026%20\(Xinhua\),%20Dray%20bursts%20\(GRBs\)](https://english.news.cn/20240726/5ef79dc88de84afeb586ef9d2d3a5717/c.html#:~:text=BEIJING%2C%20July%2026%20(Xinhua),%20Dray%20bursts%20(GRBs))

Chinese Foreign Ministry on a side event on NATO's nuclear sharing at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Eleventh Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in Geneva

Ministry of Foreign Affairs The People's Republic of China, July 26, 2024

The Chinese delegation attended the side event. The NPT prohibits the transfer of nuclear weapons or control over such weapons, directly or indirectly. China firmly upholds the international nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime with the NPT as its cornerstone, and calls on relevant country to abandon the Cold War mentality and zero-sum approach, abolish nuclear sharing arrangements, pull out the large number of nuclear weapons deployed in Europe and by no means replicate the nuclear sharing arrangements here in the Asia-Pacific.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202407/t20240730_11463269.html

How one Chinese machine tool maker is helping Russia's war against Ukraine

Shibani Mahtani and Pei-Lin Wu

The Washington Post, July 26, 2024

One of the companies that has benefited from Russia's hunger for these goods is a midsize laser machine tool company called Shandong Oree Laser Technology Co. — one of dozens of Chinese companies that the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned last month. Oree Laser is emblematic of the vital and increasing support that Chinese companies are providing to Russia: It makes fiber laser cutters, which have civilian applications but are also used in the production of military drones, a weapon that has defined the war in Ukraine.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/07/26/russia-china-military-drones-ukraine-war/>

Chinese, Indian FMs meet, agree to promote progress in border affairs consultations

Liu Xin

Global Times, July 26, 2024

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in Vientiane, Laos, and the two sides agreed to jointly commit to maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas and promote new progress in border affairs consultations. While meeting with Jaishankar in Vientiane, Wang said that in the face of the current complex international situation and severe global challenges, China and India, as two neighbouring large developing countries and major emerging economies, should strengthen dialogue and communication, enhance understanding and mutual trust, properly manage conflicts and differences, and develop mutually beneficial cooperation.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1316797.shtml>

China sets launch date for world's first thorium molten salt nuclear power station

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, July 26, 2024

China plans to start building the world's first molten salt reactor power station next year in the Gobi Desert. The reactor does not need water for cooling because it uses liquid salt and carbon dioxide to transfer heat and generate electricity. Using thorium as its primary fuel, it means worries over a potential shortage of uranium – the usual fuel used in nuclear reactors – are allayed, as thorium is more abundant than uranium. According to some scientists' estimates, China has enough thorium reserves to meet its energy needs for 20,000 years.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3271978/china-sets-launch-date-worlds-first-thorium-molten-salt-nuclear-power-station>

Blinken warns China's top diplomat that Harris cares about rules-based order

Michael Birnbaum

The Washington Post, July 27, 2024

In a sign of the political tumult back home in Washington, Secretary of State Antony Blinken delivered a message on Saturday to his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, that Vice President Harris,

and not just President Biden, is committed to the rules-based international order, a senior State Department official said. The two chief diplomats met for more than an hour on the sidelines of a conference of foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which was being held this year in the Laotian capital.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2024/07/27/blincken-china-wang-harris-vp/>

Philippine, Chinese top diplomats agree to ease South China Sea tensions

Ramon Royandoyan

Nikkei Asia, July 27, 2024

Foreign ministers of the Philippines and China met in Vientiane and agreed to cool simmering tensions in the South China Sea in line with their earlier provisional agreement on resupply missions in Manila's outposts in the disputed waterway. China's Wang Yi and the Philippines' Enrique Manalo talked for an hour, after participating in a dinner organized for top diplomats present in Laos for an annual meeting of top diplomats from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its partner countries.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/South-China-Sea/Philippine-Chinese-top-diplomats-agree-to-ease-South-China-Sea-tensions>

West views China-Russia patrol via distorted lens

Mark Blacklock

Global Times, July 28, 2024

If you have seen Western media coverage of Chinese and Russian aircraft conducting joint patrol recently over the Chukchi, Bering Seas and North Pacific, you could be forgiven for thinking that they were dropping bombs on US territory. It's clear to anyone, even the hyped-up hacks, that these were operations being conducted in international airspace, far away from US territory. Even Washington itself admitted that the flights of Russian and Chinese planes were not regarded as a "threat." But the very fact that this patrol took place was enough to give the media the jitters and to report the incidents differently to how they cover similar exercises conducted in China's backyard by American forces.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1316890.shtml>

Construction starts on several projects at nuclear power plants, accelerating China's clean-energy development

Global Times, July 28, 2024

Construction or upgrading began recently on several projects at nuclear plants in China, a significant development in the country's nuclear power and clean energy landscape. Construction began at a new unit of the Ningde Nuclear Power Plant in East China's Fujian Province. The first concrete pour for the nuclear island of Unit 5 took place, marking the official start of major construction and the beginning of the civil engineering phase, according to China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN), which is building the plant. This is the fifth of six units planned for the site.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1316897.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the ASEAN Plus Foreign Ministers' Meetings

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, July 29, 2024

At the ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Foreign Minister Wang Yi noted that China and ASEAN are friendly neighbors and close partners who have always supported each other, and more importantly, one community with a shared future sticking together through thick and thin. Recent years have seen fruitful results in building the China-ASEAN community with a shared future. Economic and trade ties have continued to thrive, people-to-people and cultural exchanges have quickly bounced back, more solid progress has been made in enhancing connectivity, and the two sides keep finding new areas where we can work together.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202407/t20240731_11463973.html

Quad FM meeting 'creates tensions' by hyping up 'China threat' in South China Sea

Wang Qi

Global Times, July 29, 2024

Top diplomats from Quad countries held talks in Tokyo, expressing so-called concerns about the situation in the East and South China Seas and vowing to uphold so-called maritime order in the "Indo-Pacific region," which analysts viewed as another attempt targeting China's growth, with a bloc-confrontation mentality. The analysts noted that hyping up the "China-threat" rhetoric is a typical US way of inciting security anxiety, so as to make some regional countries rely more on the US-led bloc. However, most countries know that making China a target of confrontation may largely suit the needs of Washington's elites, but not their own.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1316976.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the 25th anniversary of the signing of the MOU between the governments of the People's Republic of China and Japan on the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, July 30, 2024

Japan's abandoned chemical weapons (ACWs) in China mark one of the gravest crimes that Japanese militarists committed during the war of aggression against China. Even today, they still pose a serious threat to the safety of the life and property of the Chinese people and the ecological environment. China takes the issue of Japan's ACWs very seriously, and has been urging Japan to destroy them safely, completely and thoroughly at an early date in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention and the MOU between the two countries' governments. With the active assistance from the Chinese side, Japan has excavated and retrieved about 130,000 ACWs and destroyed nearly 100,000.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202407/t20240731_11463972.html

China releases first large-scale seismic data processing model with 100 million parameters

Global Times, July 30, 2024

The world's first large-scale seismic data processing model with 100 million parameters called "DiTing" has been officially released, a significant advancement for China in key technologies in seismology, according to the Chengdu science and technology bureau in Southwest China's Sichuan Province. The model was developed by the National Supercomputing Center in Chengdu in cooperation with the Institute of Geophysics of the China Earthquake Administration and Tsinghua University, the Xinhua News Agency reported. In future, the model could be applied in fields such as mine seismic monitoring, shale gas exploitation, urban underground space structure detection, underwater earthquake monitoring and others, according to the developers.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1317009.shtml>

China's new ultra-fast chip could double the pace of electronic warfare: research team

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, July 30, 2024

Chinese scientists have developed what could be the fastest analogue-to-digital converter (ADC) for military use. The device can reduce the time delay of electronic warfare receivers from nanoseconds to picoseconds – or one-trillionth of a second – researchers behind the development

said. The chip technology would make radar signal detection and responses 91.46 per cent faster, nearly doubling the speed of combat to give the Chinese military a critical edge, according to the team from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC).

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3272480/chinas-new-ultra-fast-chip-could-double-pace-electronic-warfare-research-team>

Why did China and Russia stage a joint bomber exercise near Alaska?

Heather Williams, Kari A. Bingen, and Lachlan MacKenzie

CSIS, July 30, 2024

On July 24, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) intercepted two Chinese Xian H-6K bombers and two Russian Tu-95MS Bear bombers flying near Alaska. Both types of bombers are nuclear capable. The bombers were intercepted by American F-16s and F-35s and Canadian CF-18 fighter jets. While the aircraft remained in international airspace and did not fly into Canadian or U.S. sovereign airspace, they were operating in the Alaska Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). These joint flights come at a time of growing great power competition and solidifying the Chinese-Russian “no limits” partnership.

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/why-did-china-and-russia-stage-joint-bomber-exercise-near-alaska>

Inheriting Silk Road spirit, road of China-Italy ties will become wider

Global Times, July 30, 2024

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Italy, as well as the 700th anniversary of Marco Polo's death. Both sides should view and develop bilateral relations from a historical dimension, facing important opportunities for mutual development. On the afternoon of July 29, Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who is on an official visit to China, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. From the current perspective, this visit, widely interpreted as a "new chapter" and "restart," has indeed yielded fruitful results.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1316999.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on China-Italy relations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China, July 31, 2024

At the invitation of Premier Li Qiang, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni paid an official visit to China from July 27 to 31. In Beijing, President Xi Jinping met with her. Premier Li Qiang and

Chairman Zhao Leji of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress had talks and met with her. This visit took place as the two countries mark the 20th anniversary of their comprehensive strategic partnership. During the visit, the two sides issued an action plan (2024-2027) to strengthen comprehensive strategic partnership. They stressed that the two countries stand ready to carry forward the Silk Road spirit that dates back centuries, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, promote mutual learning among civilizations, elevate bilateral relations, and make greater contribution to a peaceful, stable, and prosperous world.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202408/t20240801_11464132.html

Germany blames China for 'serious' cyber attack

Sam Jones

Financial Times, July 31, 2024

Germany has blamed China for a "serious" cyber attack in 2021 on its government agency for precision mapping, which potentially exposed sensitive information vital to protecting critical infrastructure. German interior minister Nancy Faeser on Wednesday condemned the Chinese state actors responsible "in the strongest possible terms". The German foreign office summoned the Chinese ambassador in Berlin for a formal complaint. The findings come after a three-year long inquiry by German security authorities into who was behind the malware that compromised the systems of the Federal Office for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG).

<https://www.ft.com/content/6be7fcb7-0763-4021-a715-410e306d138f>

Xi encourages model military company to build itself into highly capable unit

The State Council, The People's Republic of China, July 31, 2024

Chinese President Xi Jinping has encouraged a model military company to strengthen training in real combat conditions and build itself into a highly capable unit with great courage to fight and firm determination to win. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a reply letter to the officers and soldiers of the company ahead of the country's Army Day, which falls on Aug. 1. In the letter, Xi extended festive greetings, and expressed his satisfaction that the company had excellently performed its duties and made new achievements since his inspection of the unit in 2014.

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202407/31/content_WS66aa4266c6d0868f4e8e9a17.html

PLA celebrates Army Day with combat readiness

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 31, 2024

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is set to celebrate its 97th founding anniversary on August 1 after a year of intensive missions and development to safeguard national sovereignty, territorial integrity and development interests amid deteriorating security situations in the world and tensions around China. On the way to reach its centennial goals in 2027, the PLA is expected to further enhance its training level and equipment development, and improve national defense at its own pace, experts said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1317125.shtml>

Understanding China's pragmatic AI plan

Jen Zhu Scott

Financial Times, July 31, 2024

The two most important artificial intelligence ecosystems in the world are the US and China. Geopolitical tensions make it tempting to view the pair in opposition. Chinese AI has been described as both lagging and leading the US. In fact, the two countries are pursuing distinct strategies. China is handicapped in this race by two factors: lack of access to advanced US chips and censorship of information. Without advanced chips, China's compute power is constrained.

<https://www.ft.com/content/e76d54e6-607f-4511-a2dc-db030feea0b9>

China's DF-17 Hypersonic Missile: Built to Attack U.S. Bases and Aircraft Carriers

Peter Suci

The National Interest, July 31, 2024

The DF-17, China's hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV)-powered medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM), is designed to target foreign military bases and fleets in the Western Pacific, posing a significant threat to U.S. and allied forces. The U.S. Department of Defence's 2022 and 2023 China Military Power Reports highlighted the DF-17's capabilities, including its ability to evade existing missile defence systems like THAAD and Patriot. The DF-17's range, speed, and manoeuvrability make it a formidable weapon, with potential roles in both land-attack and anti-ship operations. U.S. lawmakers have been warned of the growing threat posed by China's advancements in hypersonic technology.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/chinas-df-17-hypersonic-missile-built-attack-us-bases-and-aircraft-carriers-207934>

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

Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA